

## Two Day Seminar on “Life & Contribution of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(R.A)</sup>” held.

Markaz-i Noor, Centre for Shaikh-ul Aalam Studies organized two day seminar on “Life & Contribution of Alamdar-i Kashmir Shaikh Noor-ud Din Noorani<sup>(R.A)</sup>” on 6-7<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The seminar was inaugurated by minister for Finance and Ladakh Affairs Abdur Rahim Rather at Ibn-i Khuldun Auditorium of Kashmir University on 6<sup>th</sup> December morning, In his inaugural address Mr. Rather called for “Self Introspection” at all levels and said that knowing ones self is the real philosophy of life as a whole and also thoughts of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(R.A)</sup> teachings and writings. Mr. Rather also said that he is keen to see Markaz-i Noor flourishing day by day by way of promoting and producing standard research works on Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(R.A)</sup> which can further popularize the message of the great saint poet among the masses. Saying that the people of the state have high hopes with Markaz-i Noor institute of Kashmir University, the Minister said that he will always be there to give financial support to this institute of learning and see that financial impendent do not come in the way of the progress of this institute.

In his presidential address Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University, Prof Talat Ahmad said that Centre for Shaikh-ul Aalam Studies is a priority area for him and he would personally over see the noble cause of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> flourishing through the Centre and called for using teachings of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> for welfare of entire society. Vice Chancellor underlined the need for locating Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> in larger context and expressed the happiness over the fact that not only did Markaz-i Noor, Centre for Shaikh-ul Aalam Studies came up as Centre over the years but now it is a full- fledged research institute as well. He assured his full support to the Centre for growth and development.

Hoping that the Centre will evolve in to research Centre of excellence in the times to come Prof. Talat asked the new scholars at the centre to work with keenness and zest and bring laurels to the Centre with their research. Prof. Talat further said that the real tribute to Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> will be to carry out studies at scholarly level on his life and works and render his works in other languages to make him known internationally.

Key note speaker Muhammad Saleem Beigh gave an over view of the age and times of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> in which he said “It was a time of oppression and inequality in which peace of mind was missing”. Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> launched a movement not only to see the revival of peace and tranquility among the people but he as well worked to see end to oppression. Today if we want to succeed, we got to have a direction for which the idioms, processes and the very discourse have to undergo a change, said Beigh to an audience which comprised of students, scholars and academia from the University of Kashmir.

In his welcome address Chairman, Prof. Basher Bashir while highlighting the role of life, philosophy and works of Shaikh-ul Aalam in various spheres of life said “Established in 1998 the Shaikh-ul Aalam chair has now been given the status of full- fledged research Centre which will give more impetus to research and study in order to transmit the message of the great Saint poet Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> to younger generation and society of Kashmir at large. We have already registered some Scholars with us this year for M.Phil and Ph.D courses”. He also thanked the Kashmir University authorities for their in organizing the seminar. Coordinator Dr. Aziz Hajini while discussing the different facets of the multidimensional personality of Shaikh-ul Aalam<sup>(RA)</sup> and his contribution to Kashmir society said that Alamdar-i Kashmir is a true symbol of Kashmir ethos which we can boost upon. He highlighted as well the recent initiatives taken by the Centre to make it vibrant. Dr. Aziz Hajini conducted the proceedings of the inaugural event and also presented vote of thanks.

During the business sessions papers were read by Prof. Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Prof. Muhammad Ashraf Wani, Prof. Noor Ahmad Baba, Prof. Majrooh Rashid, Prof Shad Ramzan, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, Dr. Mehfooza Jan, Dr. Maroof Shah, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Gowhar and Mr. Manshoor Banihali. The sessions were chaired by Prof. Rahman Rahi, Prof. Yaseen Ahmad and Dr. Hamid ul- llah Bhat. In the valedictory session Dean Academic Affairs Prof Ali Muhammad Shah delivered the concluding address. Prof. Shah in his address laid stress on “disseminating the message of Alamdar to younger generation”. He assured full administrative support to the Centre. The Chairman Markaz-i Noor Prof. Basher Bashir thanked the paper readers and participants for making the event a great success. The proceedings were conducted by the seminar in charge Dr. Aziz Hajini.