

## SPECIAL LECTURE

# 'We need to rethink higher education model'

### DU Correspondent

THE former chancellor of the University of Derby, UK, Sir Christopher John Elinger Ball, said the higher education model across the globe needs to be remodeled to fit the 21st century.

'The model of higher education we developed in the 20th century was appropriate for the 20th century but not appropriate for the 21st century. We need to think again about our model of higher education in university learning,' he said.

Christopher was delivering his lecture on 'What are Universities for in 21st Century' at Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium in Dhaka University. Bangladesh University Grant Commission organised the programme with its chairman Prof Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Christopher said 'in the 20th century, we focused on technological learning. We tried to fit our students to be technical and technological experts.'

He stressed the need for fundamental research and technological development to solve various problems. He said universities should play the central role to produce skilled workforces for the nation.

He called upon young people to keep their minds

free to find the truth.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission Abdul Mannan presided over the function while international affairs advisor to the Prime Minister Gowher Rizvi addressed it as the chief guest. Vice-chancellors, pro-vice chancellors and treasurers from different public and private universities of the country attended the function.

Gowher Rizvi thanked the organisers for arranging the lecture. He hoped that this lecture would play an effective role in improving the quality of education.

'I think this is the beginning of the discussion. This is the sort of discussion we need to have. What sort of universities we want,' he said.

DU vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique in his speech said we have the resources to counter the ongoing crisis of terrorism. If we can pull all our resources together and unite against the enemies, then it is only a matter of time that we will be able to stop the terrorists who are threatening our ways of life, he said.

The VC urged the academic world and the security forces to take concerted efforts for making the world free from terrorism, extremism, fundamentalism, violence and bigotry.