

# The Daily Star

Sunday, February 22, 2015

## Young leaders can bring sustainable change

*Economist Haider A Khan tells public lecture*

*Staff Correspondent*



*Haider A Khan*

Young leadership has the potential to bring positive changes to the country. If guided by a vibrant civil society, youth leadership can be developed in different sectors across the country and can organise large movements for sustainable change.

Such movements are likely to be waged on the issues of unemployment, climate change and inequality.

The views were expressed by internationally acclaimed economist Haider A Khan at a public lecture organised by Brac University yesterday.

The lecture, “Egalitarian Development: A Strategy for Bangladesh in the 21st Century”, was delivered in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

The John Evans Professor teaches economics at Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.

Commenting on the current political impasse, he said the loss to the economy has worried most people.

“It can't go on for months,” he said, “But a solution should come from within the country, not prescribed from outside.”

Pointing out that representative democracy and parliamentary constitutional politics have limitations, he stressed that without the right political and civic culture, democracy cannot function anywhere in the world.

“Unless we find credible means to change the political culture within which we function, and affect the attitudes, values and indulgences of our political elite, the viability of democracy will be doubtful,” he concluded. Prof MM Akash also spoke.

**Published:** *12:00 am Saturday, February 21, 2015*