# Bangladesh must advocate for legal migration opportunities for the climate-vulnerable



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### **SHAKIRUL ISLAM**

The last 15 years have seen an increase in the frequency and intensity of Bangladesh. The impacts of salinity intrusion and drought have worsened in the last couple of years. These climate events have taken a toll on the livelihoods of the coastal population and their ability to adapt.

Agricultural options are already scarce in coastal areas, and due to extreme salinity and change in rainfall patterns, harvesting paddy or other seasonal crops has become quite difficult. On the other hand, shrimp cultivation, despite being popular in coastal areas, hasn't generated much employment opportunities. It is also vulnerable to climate change effects, as the shrimp farms can be washed away by powerful tidal surges and cyclones. Apart from agricultural activities. options for entrepreneurship and service industry jobs are also limited in coastal villages.

If you look in from the outside, it might seem like the local youth and their families have very little hope for the future. Poverty, school dropouts, early marriage, and health problems due to the use of saline water are widespread. But if you hear about their dreams, you will be surprised at villages want to develop their skills their resilience.

postgraduate studies. The internet has now reached even the remotest cyclones, floods and tidal surges in villages of Padmapukur and Koyra, connecting people and their ideas. Young people are not just playing games on their smartphones, but accessing information on job opportunities, at home and abroad.

For instance, I met an HSC student in Kaikhali Union of Shyamnagar, Satkhira, who was planning to learn IT skills to get some freelance or online jobs. Ambitions have no boundaries. I met eight-year-old Asmat, who has already made up his mind about becoming a pilot. He doesn't want to be a van driver like his father, who works hard to make ends meet.

Another HSC candidate, Sadiya, is looking for opportunities to work abroad. In fact, many adolescents like her are fascinated by overseas employment. For instance, a man was telling me how he goes to work in India every year. Although one of his friends was caught by the police and jailed for a few months for illegally working there, he still considers it profitable because he finds no viable work opportunities in his village during the rainy season.

Theyoung population in the coastal and knowledge and advance their Many local youth have already career. But in the absence of training



Climate migration was not on the COP27 agenda, despite millions of people around the world being vulnerable to climate change. FILE PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

brick kilns or other informal sector jobs where exploitation of labor is quite prevalent. The lack of necessary protection mechanisms also leads to failed migration for some.

However, the parents of these young children also understand the

many of them fail to fulfill their adaptation. Many have expressed They are also not very conscious potential. They end up working in their hope that the government about the government's action plans will make special arrangements to export manpower from their climatevulnerable villages.

not have any knowledge about the GCM (Global Compact on Migration) objectives that aim to create a legal completed college or even and employment opportunities, importance of research for local pathway for their overseas migration. So far, it took the biggest step by

designed for their adaptation. Still, they are raising demands for overseas jobs and training opportunities to People in the coastal areas might become self-sufficient and resilient, no matter where they are.

> But how far have we progressed in achieving the GCM objectives?

calling on the state parties to plan visa options for climate-vulnerable people. But there is still a long way to go to yield substantial policies and translate them into tangible benefits. The politics around climate migration remains an intractable issue. For instance, at COP27, climate migration was not included on the agenda. But can we discuss climate adaptation and loss and damage without even considering the need for creating a global pathway for climatevulnerable people? Adaptation or resilience-building won't be so easy if this part of it is missing.

Advocacy on climate migration at COP27 is an opportunity to influence the wealthiest countries to play their part. Other than getting their

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general affirmation or commitment, we must make them accountable to provide financing and technical support to establish safe pathways for overseas migration. The government of Bangladesh can play a strong role here in discussing legal frameworks to promote overseas employment for the climate-vulnerable people in

# Bad economic policies and Biden's loss



**DIALOGUE** 

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## **ABDULLAH SHIBLI**

November 8 was not such a disaster for the Democrats and President Biden as pollsters had predicted it would be.

On November 3, the president told a rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico: House of Representatives, and gave "Five days - five days to go until the most important election in our lifetime." At stake were all 435 seats of the House of Representatives economist Ray Fair's forecasting (the lower house) and 35 (roughly one-third) of the Senate (the upper house).

2022 elections were a setback for the Democratic Party, which is expected to lose control of the the incumbent President Joe Biden plenty of reasons to worry about the next two years of his term. Yale model suggested that Democrats would get 46.7 percent of the national vote in November - down opinion polls had from the 51.3 percent in 2020 when been predicting a major shift in Biden defeated Donald Trump. The voter sentiments away from the actual number was pretty close, a

pressures, and this was not helped by pandemic-related disruptions and geopolitical conflicts (in Europe and the Far East).

So, did Biden's economic policy determine the outcome of the elections? Yes and no. There were success so far. three factors in play: politics, policy, and economics.

thirst for liberty may fall under the the man who tells the people what they want to hear rather than what truly benefits them."

It is known that Biden and the Democrats tried to distract people with their own agenda, including Court's decisions, and the war in Ukraine. The Republicans played up the rising crime rate, immigration crisis, high interest rates, and defeat in Afghanistan.

The US economy overall is in very

AN OPEN would only unleash inflationary that the price of a gallon was only USD 2.40 when Biden took office.

The price of everything else has gone up considerably, too. The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, is on a mission to bring down the inflation rate to two percent, with only modest

The week before the election, there were two pieces of bad news: the Plato, the Greek philosopher Fed raised the interest rate another sense." The US midterm election on of 25 seats (except in 2002 after the said, "A democratic society in its three-quarters of a percent and the rate of inflation was 8.2 percent Thus, it is no surprise that the influence of bad leaders," but added in September. The good news on but there are some silver linings. Usedthat "popular acclaim will attend on the economic front is that jobs are car prices have come down, and home Economics model plentiful and the unemployment rate is low. But there are pockets of poverty and the wage rate is not rising with the cost of living.

The Fed also announced that. because inflation was higher and the January 6 riots, the Supreme unemployment rate lower than what was necessary to curb inflation, it would be raising interest rates again and that the next year, the US electorate would have to live with a rising interest rate, high inflation, and possibly a recession.

and rising interest rates drove Democratic Party was led by politicians typical homebuyers in October to who were clueless. A 30-member pay 77 percent more on their loans strong Congressional Progressive per month than they paid last year, Caucus, a progressive group, came according to Realtor.com.

Mark Zandi, the chief economist at the worst time in my living history for the home buyer – it just doesn't make estimates, US taxpayers are funding

So, yes, the economic news is not so every month. good for nomeouvers and commuters, prices have reached a plateau in many

However, the policies of the Biden administration are also facing strong conditions, persistent inflation, and headwinds before the new Congress convenes in January. Three issues need to be mentioned: the financial support for the war in Ukraine, Biden's kowtow to the rulers of Saudi Arabia, and the House Democrats' failure to control the January 9 investigation.

Although President Biden was not up for reelection, he was considered

Data shows that soaring prices a weak and prevaricating leader. The out with a statement beseeching the president to refrain from feeding the Moody's Analytics, said "This may be Ukraine War machine. According to the Congressional Budget Office the war to the tune of USD 5 billion

> So, what can we expect in the months? Bloomberg coming show that a recession is effectively certain in the next 12 months because of tightening financial expectations of a hawkish Federal Reserve pressing ahead with rate hikes. The model is more certain of a recession than other forecasts. A separate Bloomberg survey of 42 economists, predicting the probability of a recession over the next 12 months, stands at 60 percent, up from 50 percent a month earlier.



Voters line up a few minutes before the polls close during the 2022 US midterm elections in Durham, North Carolina. PHOTO: REUTERS

Democrats – who were in control of little under 46 percent. the White House and both houses of Congress – the news on election night, as results started to trickle in, demonstrated that the US electorate is much smarter than what political pundits had assumed.

12 midterms, the party in command of the White House lost an average

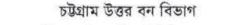
The outcome was not completely unforeseen. Polls leading up to November had uniformly pointed to the direction which US voters were leaning towards given the economic and geo-political hardship One of the few axioms of US uncertainty that has resulted from politics is the loss of seats by the two years of Biden's stewardship. president's party in midterm House It is also well-known that the elections. Data shows that, in the last Democrats were warned by many that the stimulus package unfurled by the-then newly elected Biden year. And US consumers remember

good shape, except for one issue: the rate of inflation has been high for almost a year, and there is no sign of it coming down soon.

The average price of unleaded regular gasoline has been ticking up again, reaching USD 3.80 a gallon on November 6, according to American Automobile Association (AAA). That is lower than the USD 5 we saw in summer, but 38 percent higher compared to the same period last

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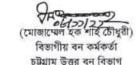
সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক বাস্তব্যয়িত বৃক্ষরোপণ কর্মকান্তকে নিম্নে বর্ণিত ১৭(সাত) টি

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- (২) উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় (সকল), চট্টগ্রাম জেলা
- (৩) রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়- মীরসরাই রেঞ্জ, মীরসরাই উপজেলা/ বারৈয়াঢালা রেঞ্জ,সীতাকুন্ড উপজেলা/ নারায়নহাট রেঞ্জ,ফটিকছড়ি উপজেলা/ হাটহাজারী রেঞ্জ, হাট্রাজারী উপজেলা/ ইছামতি রেঞ্জ, রাউজান উপজেলা/ রাংগুনিয়া রেঞ্জ, রাংগুনিয়া উপজেলা/ পটিয়া রেঞ্জ, পটিয়া ও বোয়ালখালী উপজেলা/ পটিয়া এস,এফ,এম,টি,সি, কর্মফুলী ও আনোয়ারা উপজেলা/ দোহাজারী রেঞ্জ,চন্দনাইশ উপজেলা / পদুয়া রেঞ্জ, লোহাগাড়া উপজেলা/ কালীপুর রেঞ্জ, বাঁশখালী উপজেলা/ মাদার্সা রেণ্ড, সাতকানিয়া উপজেলা/ সন্দীপ রেঞ্জ, সন্ধীপ উপজেলা/ শহর রেঞ্জ, মহানগর এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম জেলা।

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