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To me, truth is not some vague, foggy notion. Truth is real. And, at the same time, unreal. Fiction and fact and everything in between, plus some things I can't remember, all rolled into one big "thing." This is truth, to me.

- DEEP THOUGHTS,
JACK HANDEY

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Stop poaching migratory birds

Migratory birds from different parts of the world arrive at the onset of the winter season every year. A number of species of wildlife and birds arrive from the Siberian region every year to escape the severe weather prevailing there. As a student of zoology, I have witnessed and studied these migratory birds whose arrival depends on quality and preference of habitat, human disturbance along their route, hunting and so on.

These birds and overall wildlife are victims of some unscrupulous people who poach and kill them for their

personal gain. Implementation of the Wildlife Protection and Security Act 2012 and the Ecological Critical Areas (ECA) developed is still largely absent as hunters and poachers flourish.

In my opinion, it is an epidemic malpractice by such unscrupulous people and this practice must be stopped by the concerned authorities—members of the law enforcement agencies—and environmentalists.

Abul Khaer
Govt. Saadat College, Tangail

Regulate, monitor, stop single-use plastic, polythene bag use

Polythene bags have managed to stage a huge comeback, despite a government ban on their use in the country. Their use has seen such a massive increase because of availability, cheap prices and lax monitoring. The alternatives, jute and net bags are not used as much because they are not as easily available. There is increasing evidence that even if a small percentage of polythene bags are littered, they still have a devastating impact on the environment.

Plastic bags are non-biodegradable, and are extremely hazardous to the environment. Furthermore, plastic bags block drains and release toxic fumes when burned. The government did impose a ban on the use of plastic bags its use still remains rampant. This however should not dissuade the government from taking further steps.

With jute bags becoming all the vogue, the concerned authorities can now employ newer techniques such as airing advertisements and using billboards to show the benefits of jute or biodegradable bags.

At any cost, the government must try to reduce the use of plastic products. Governments all over the world have taken action to ban the sale of lightweight single-use plastic bags. While the ban continues to remain in force in Bangladesh, the time has come that all of us should stand together to implement the total ban on plastic bags, which is choking us slowly. A number of mobile courts try to impose fines time to time but bigger fines should be enforced, to encourage the ban and stop this catastrophe.

Zubair Khaled Huq

