



Police and Society: Expectations and Realities (Concluding Part)

Intelligence Collection is also of vital importance. Prevention and appropriate readiness of the government is always a must. Indeed one stitch in time saves nine. Intelligence system more often than not works to cover the truth and satisfy the power-holder. Intelligence collection system needs to be rejuvenated, invigorated appropriately with training both at home and abroad, introducing new and modern methodology and with whatever is necessary. In-depth instruction in intelligence must be designed.

I am not defending the Magistracy or judiciary. At the same time, we cannot cover our eyes to the fact how faultily and half-heartedly charge sheets are framed and presented in courts. We need to do something in this respect. Most times, charge sheet at best is a statement of jumble of events without sequence, logic, adequate and consistent evidence and without the pointing finger to the truth.

Regarding prosecution in the court, the less said, the better. Prosecuting Inspector is a punishment posting. I can imagine the officer appearing in the court with a puckered brow, nonchalant attitude in everything and for whom the future stands lost, conducting the case listlessly. He does not know where he is going and what he is up to - pitiable sight indeed.

Simultaneously with field action, and expressed Act of Will on the part of the government, unless we can improve and take drastic and immediate steps to improve quality of de-

tection, intelligence collection, charge sheet and prosecution in the court, no progress will be made in building the Dictum of Credibility in the administration of criminal justice. Police will remain an ineffective tool and as if, it will beat its wings in the air but in vain and ineffectually even if it wants to strive and fly. These very four elements must be taken up immediately by the police department and improvements can be brought about.

however, remote or difficult of access it may be, that is not regularly visited by the police. They are concerned in practically every detail of Indian village life. The state of crops, the irrigation of fields, the condition of roads and paths, private feuds, jealousies and quarrels, feasts, fairs, rejoicing and all the thousand and one important, trifling, pathetic or humorous details which make up the existence of Indian rural community are often of professional interest to the police, who thus touch the life of the people at almost every point." (J.C. Curry, 'Indian Police', Page-43).

Nowadays, the supervising officers and Inspector General of Police hardly visit a district or thana and meet their men. I know one or two Inspector General of Police who never set a foot at a thana and never went out of Dhaka unless in a VIP entourage. A commander must visit his men. Solution of problems or no solution, he should never-the-less meet and talk to his men, know their mind and strike a chord of sympathy and rapport with them. Sympathetic attitude and examination of their problems go a long way in improving the morale of men. Even in politics, the slogan "he came and saw" pays dividend. Tours and supervision of thana and district constabulary by the supervising and superior officers and insistence on conforming to books of code and regulations will surely bring good result.

All these things will go a long way to establish the Dictum of Predictability of Police

vision in the Police Act.

The person who directly controls the gun or has the finger at the trigger or the immediate control over brandishing of the arms is indeed a mighty person. If he slips a little or gives in to provocations, that may give rise to dangerous situation and consequences. He needs to be bent under law and some distance and remoteness and detachment from the decision making and pulling of the trigger need to be built. A person who is rather physically a sort of weakling, generally sits in judgment and is given to calculation and weighing by the nature and burden of his job is less likely to be provoked and carried away by emotion and excitement.

It does not, however, mean that persons who are in control of the gun and are ready to act will necessarily be trigger-happy. Rather on the contrary, they may be absolutely sober, disciplined, dispassionate and modest, not easily given to excitement and these qualities can be brought into play with good and sustained training, absorption of knowledge, civility of society contributing to the ability of one to overcome the emotion and ego. But that kind of Negative Capability against oneself is difficult to achieve and thus Check and Balance method is recommended.

Generals do not declare war. They conduct and fight the war. War is declared by the so called weaklings, politicians who are, at times, stooped with age, adorned with deep-furrowed brow and attired with rugged clothes.

No doubt, corruption is rampant and eating at the vitals of society. Nonetheless, we do not find any serious and systematic efforts at curbing this evil. We must chalk out a systematic programme and check-methods for checkmating corruption, its vile demonstration and its dissemination. Living disproportionate to known source of income and acquisition of disproportionate assets can be subjected to constant vigil and verification. We must make corruption difficult.

We must be aware of the fact that these days police administration is characterised by apathy and escape-attitude. A police man usually works in the manner as if he is in a state of somnambulism or is in a trance and the mountain passes before him, he fails to notice. A rising of the finger or a slight reaction of disapproval may bring a lot improvement. Day in, day out, one may be indulging in wrong parking or opens and runs a shop on the road pavement, or dries paddy on the national highways or runs bazars and hats thereon, not a single soul is there to lift a finger of disapproval. To my mind traffic weeks etc. are counter-productive. Discharge of duty is regular and should be regularly enforced - every day, every night, every hour - before the snow-balling starts building up. Problems get easier solved, if tackled in the beginning and nipped in the bud.

All said and done, without police we will not survive a day in society. Officer-in-charge of a thana has unlimited power, same power as of I.G. of police. If an officer-in-charge of a thana is honest, hard working and knowledgeable, he is a blessing and a gift for that thana. Policemen are working day and night through a lot of constraint. They must be looked after and their lot should improve.

Society expects a lot from policemen. Realities may be different and their image is not as bright. Still they are useful and a requirement. They must be put up in a bright get-up and in dignity. Respectful image and pride of uniform must be restored to them.

If we cannot deal with the ills of the whole society all in one go, we can at least make a beginning with the Police as this is the most vital and essential organ of society.



Administration. This predictability is as well equally important for civil administration. For police as well as for civil-swiftness and clarity in decision making, appropriate and adequate response in a given circumstance contribute to the good order of society. In an emergent situation, delay in deciding or in imposition of sec 144 or some such suitable measures as may be warranted may cause serious disorder or give rise to a big riot or even may result in number of deaths and untold turmoil.

At this point, a vital issue arises - who makes the decision. In the British period, the matter was rather clear as much as it was said in sec. 4 of the police Act - "the administration of police throughout the local jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the district shall under the general control and direction of such Magistrate, be vested in District Superintendent of Police."

With the passage of time, this relationship between the police and civil administration has become a contentious issue. We often notice these days parallel administration in the district. In defence, it may be said that under the British rule, the District Magistrate used to represent directly the British Raj. I believe it was not that simple. Rather a deeper consideration and judicious consideration formed basis of the said pro-

Today Bangladesh police is cloistered in their own thana. Even in Pakistan days, if some events took place, or some important man or a dubious or interesting character visited that area, or excessive rain took place, the thana used to make a GD entry and keep record. These at a later date at times might have led to a detection of a crime or worked towards pointing to a viable direction. The list of touts, dangerous elements and system of surveillance has become things of the past. Thana is no longer involved in the main stream of rural life and its activities. This needs to be corrected, reintroduced and insisted upon. What J.C. Curry in his classical work 'Indian Police' said in 1930's is still relevant and with great benefit can be adhered to even now. He writes, "The Indian Policeman is the ubiquitous embodiment of the government. There is no village,