The urban quagmire

Dear Editor,

What has become *of* us as an urban society in general is most bizarre and cannibalistic. We fail to notice it because we are all saturated.

Shahbaz, a five-year-old schoolboy, the only child of his parents, was crushed before the eyes of his own mother by a truck (Dawn 1.10.89) the mother became hysterical and mad. The enraged crowd set the killer truck on fire and caused a lot of riot in the area.That is all that this crowd could have done.

Even if we had the "law and justice" that a society deserves (which in my opinion is not possible the way we are progressing) it could not bring back the life of poor Shahbaz. In a couple of days all the fire, fury and anger will settle down, the dead child will become a mere digit in the statistical log of the megalopolis... and after a few days more infants will be killed on the roads.

The next stage that we will encounter as urbanites, is going to be worse. Either we will stop getting moved by such 'trivial' things and become numb, or we will turn extremely violent killing anybody who comes in the way. The casualty rates are going to get high. Anarchy, lack of imaginative leadership, and absence of an honest desire and drive to solve problems of the masses is an old story. The problems keep growing at an astronomical pace.

It is cruel that the masters at the helm of affairs do not take indicators of greater disasters that are going to follow. Mob attacks on police stations, mob attacks on killing vehicles, public lynching, broad daylight armed robberies and assaults, gang rapes, kidnapping for ransom, mob attack on power supply authorities, snipers and bomb attacks. Is it not enough!

There seems to be no way we can penetrate the thick shell of the administration to plead for mercy or to ask for the safety, security and welfare of the masses. I feel that Karachi is doomed to become even a greater human slaughterhouse if the intellectuals and professionals do not come forward now to carve out a survival strategy.

DAZ

Karachi