

## Scenario 131

### **KARACHI CITY'S DYNAMICS**

A city of 20 million human crowd – is it manageable any more?

Karachi is the largest city in Pakistan and 7th most populous urban city in the world. It is the main seaport and financial centre of Pakistan. Karachi is also known as *City of Lights* mainly due to the city's night life; it is famous for being a city that never sleeps. Karachi metro has an estimated population of over 23.5 million people as of October 2013 [*referred to Wikipedia*] and area of approximately 3,527 km<sup>2</sup> resulting in a density of more than 6,000 people per square kilometre.

Karachi is the 7th largest urban mass in the world, and the second largest in the Muslim world. It is also the world's 7th least expensive city to live based on cost of living. It is Pakistan's centre of banking, industry, economic activity and trade and is home to Pakistan's largest corporations, including those involved in textiles, shipping, the automotive industry, entertainment, the arts, fashion, advertising, publishing, software development and medical research. The city is a hub of higher education in South Asia and the Muslim world.

Karachi was the capital of Pakistan until Islamabad was constructed to spread development evenly across the country and to prevent it from being concentrated in Karachi. Karachi is the location of the Port of Karachi and Port Bin Qasim, two of the region's largest and busiest ports. After the independence of Pakistan on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947, the city population increased dramatically when hundreds of thousands of Muslim *Muhajirs* from India and from other parts of South Asia came to settle in Karachi.

The city is located on the Arabian Sea coastline. It is also known as the ***Uroos ul Bilaad*** [The Bride of the Cities], the "City of Lights" and the "City of the Quaid," having been the birth and burial place of *Quaid-e-Azam* [the Great Leader] Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, who made the city his home after Pakistan's independence from the British Raj.

**DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION:**

Karachi's population is composed of ethno-linguistic groups from all parts of Pakistan, as well as migrants from other countries of South Asia, making the city a most diverse melting pot of the country.

Karachi was always considered a migrant city; Hindus and Muslims alike migrated from different parts of India to Karachi during British Raj. Oldest settlement of the city was Lyari where first inhabitants settled who were mostly Sindhi fishermen and Baloch nomads. One **Yamini Narayanan** wrote about Lyari in his book: *Religion and Urbanism: Re-conceptualising Sustainable Cities for South Asia* (November 2015) p 165, that:

*"It is the densest, most impoverished and violence-ridden part of the city which was ignored for infrastructure development by British and post-partition provincial governments at the cost of more development for Urdu-speaking areas of the city."*

At the end of the 19th century, the population of the city was about 105,000, with a gradual increase over the next few decades, reaching more than 400,000 on the eve of independence in 1947. Estimates of the population range from 20 to 25 million\*, of which an estimated 90% are migrants from different backgrounds. The city's population is estimated to be growing at about 5% per year (mainly as a result of internal rural-urban migration), including an estimated 45,000 migrant workers coming to the city every month from different parts of Pakistan.

*[\*Different sources, books and columns describe different estimates about Karachi's population. No system of influx registration exists; no census had been done since two decades; no exact scheme is there to know the people living in slums and no organisation, official or private, has ever felt responsibility or necessity of counting the additions, migrations, deaths and births.*

*That is why, since a decade almost, water scarcity, zero cleanliness, massive un-employment etc have given rise to criminal gangs, killers & mafias – with no strategy of solutions whatsoever.]*

Before the end of British colonial rule, the population of the city was 50% Hindu, 40% Muslim and the remaining was Christians. The city was, and still is home to a large community of Gujarati Muslims who were one of the earliest settlers here.

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The independence of Pakistan in 1947 saw the influx of Muslim *Muhajirs* from India fleeing from anti-Muslim pogroms. The majority of the Urdu-speaking and other non - Punjabi Muslim refugees that fled from various North Indian cities and towns got settled in Karachi, which is why the culture of the city is a blend of South Asian castes and tribes.

The demographics of the city changed from 50% Hindu and 40% Muslim to 90% Muslim, 70% of which was made up of new migrants from India. Today, the descendants of those Muslim refugees are known as *Muhajirs* and form a large, powerful group in Karachi. These *Muhajirs* include Urdu - speaking, Gujarati, Marathi, Konkani, Rajasthani, and Malabari Muslims from India.

Due to socio-economic pressures on Muslims in India, many Muslim families from all over India continued migrating to Pakistan throughout the 1950s and even early 1960s. From 1960s and onwards, Punjabis from Punjab and *Pakhtuns* or *Pashtuns* [interchangeable words] from NWFP (now Khyber PK) continued migrating to Karachi due to its economical viability.

Today Karachi is home to 1 to 2 million ethnic Bengalis from Bangladesh, many of whom migrated in and after 1971 war, the 1980s and 1990s. These small ethno - linguistic groups are being assimilated in the Urdu - speaking community.

Karachi is host to many expatriates from Uganda descended from African slaves. Many other refugees from Iran - some original but most migrated after Imam Khomeini's revolution in Iran, and the Central Asian countries constituting the former Soviet Union also settled in the city as political or economic migrants.

A large numbers of Arabs, Philipinos and economic elite of Sinhalese from Sri Lanka, expatriates from China have a history going back to the 1940s; today, many of the Chinese are second generation children of immigrants who came to the city and worked as dentists, chefs and shoemakers.

During World War II, about 3,000 Polish refugees from the Soviet Union were evacuated to Karachi by the British. Some of these Polish families settled permanently in the city. There are also communities of American and British expatriates.

After the independence of Pakistan, a considerable number of Punjabi Muslims from Pakistani Punjab settled in Karachi; Punjabi and Pashtun are two out of three major ethnic groups in Karachi. The Pashtuns originally from

the province of Khyber PK, Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA] and northern Balochistan, are settled in Karachi post independence.

Additionally several Afghan Pashtun refugees settled in Karachi during the 80's, including 50,000 registered Afghan refugees in the city. There is also a sizeable community of Kashmiri Muslims from the Kashmir Valley. In Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly, there are two MLA's seats earmarked for refugees of [Indian] Occupied Kashmir settled in Karachi.

Karachi has the largest number of Urdu speakers compared to any other city in Pakistan. According to the last official census of the city, held in 1998, the linguistic distribution of the city was: Urdu: 48.52%; Punjabi: 16.05%; Pashtun: 25.01%; Sindhi: 7.22%; Balochis: 4.34%; others: 12.44%. The others included Dari, Gujarati, Memons, Bohras, Marwari, Arabic, Farsi [Persian] and Bengali plus many more.

Nadeem F Paracha describes KARACHI in daily **'Dawn' of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014:**

*'The capital of Pakistan's Sindh province, it is the country's largest city – a colossal, ever-expanding metropolis with a population of about 20 million (and growing).*

*Also the country's most ethnically diverse city – where populations mostly reside in their own areas of influence and majority. Karachi may also be called a mega-city holding various small cities; cities within a city.'*

Apart from its clustered ethnic diversity, it is the city where most Muslim population is divided in sects and sub-sects. Many pockets in the city are exclusively dedicated to the Shiite Muslim sect and various Sunni sub-sects; people reside in their own areas of majority religion or sub-sect and they only venture out of their areas for trade, work or play in the city's more neutral economic and cultural spaces, state organisations, factories, shopping malls and recreational spots.

There are also quite a few Christians [Catholic and Protestant], Hindus and Zoroastrians – but no one has any complaint about them.

The clustered areas often witnessed ethnic and sectarian strife and violence mainly due to one cluster of the ethnic or sectarian or sub-sectarian population accusing the other of encroaching upon their area of control. The neutral points enjoy a relatively strife-free environment being multicultural

and also because the writ of the state mostly prevails there and appreciated. However, these neutral spaces have become a natural target of crimes such as robberies, muggings, kidnapping for ransom, extortion, etc.

The ethnic, sectarian & intra-sectarian, economic and political interests of the clustered areas are 'protected' by various legal, as well as banned outfits in their own areas of influence. '*Bhatta*' [extortion] money is normally charged in the name of same 'protection'.

After the 1970s, Karachi has become home to about five to seven million Pashtuns, which is more than any one city or district of Khyber PK. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, ethnic and political violence broke out across the city when *Muhajir* followers of the *Mohajir Qaumi Movement* [MQM] fought with ethnic Sindhis, Punjabis, and security forces. As a result, the Army was deployed to restore peace in the city.

During British Raj, it was also described as "***Paris of Asia***". According to Price Water House Coopers, in 2009, Karachi had a total GDP of \$78 billion with conservative projections expecting it to rise to \$193 billion in 2025. The city generates 35% of Pakistan's tax revenue and is a transit point for majority of its trade; '***The Express Tribune***' dated **12<sup>th</sup> October 2015** is referred.

Violence, poverty, criminality, zero cleanliness and non-availability of clean drinking water are some of the major issues being faced by Karachiites. ***By 2015, 30,000 people were dying due to water-borne diseases annually.*** Several criminal mafias have been active in Karachi for a long time as what has been described as "the rule of the mafias".

The major mafias active in the city included land mafia, water tanker mafia, transport mafia, *bhatta* [extortion] mafia and *reti bajri mafia* (sand and gravel mafia); the last one being related to the construction business.

Affordable housing is another major issue of Karachi as many poor people live in slums and shanty towns. Crime and resentment grew during the Ayub era among mostly *Mohajir* and *Balochi* towns due to economic disparities which turned into a growing movement against Ayub regime, contributing to a national movement resulting in the regime's fall in 1969.

### **ECONOMY OF KARACHI CITY:**

During the 1960s, Karachi was seen as an economic role model around the world. Many countries sought to emulate Pakistan's economic planning strategy and one of them, ***South Korea, copied the city's second "Five-Year Plan" and the World Financial Centre in Seoul is designed and modelled after Karachi.***

Karachi had both a municipal corporation and a Karachi Divisional Council in the 1960s, which developed schools, colleges, roads, municipal gardens, and parks. The Karachi Divisional Council had working committees for education, roads, and residential society's development and planning. Shifting of capital marked the start of a long period of decline in the city, especially causing the reduction in large-scale industry by 37.9% till ending 2013.

The 1970s also saw major labour struggles in Karachi's industrial estates. The 1980s and 1990s saw an influx of thousands of Afghan refugees from the Soviet war in Afghanistan into Karachi; they were followed in smaller numbers by refugees escaping from Iran.

According to the Federal Board of Revenue's year books, till year 2007 [***end of Gen Musharraf's rule***], tax and customs units in Karachi were responsible for 46.75% of direct taxes, 33.65% of federal excise tax, and 23.38% of domestic sales tax. Karachi accounts for 75.14% of customs duty and 79% of sales tax on imports. Therefore, Karachi collected 53.38% of the total collections of the Federal Board of Revenue. Karachi's local & original contribution to national revenue is around 25%; Port of Karachi being one of South Asia's largest and busiest deep-water seaports.

Karachi's contribution to Pakistan's manufacturing sector is about 30pc. A substantial part of Sindh's gross domestic product [GDP] is attributed to Karachi - around 28%–30%.

Karachi is the nerve centre of Pakistan's economy. The economic stagnation caused by political anarchy, ethnic strife and resultant military operation during the late 1980s and 1990s led to an exit of industry from Karachi. Due to continuing political ineffectiveness, most of the capital and industry flew to Bangladesh, Jakarta and Dubai.

Most of Pakistan's public and private banks are headquartered on Karachi's Chundrigar Road which is also known as "Pakistan's Wall Street". According to a 2001 report, nearly 60% of the cash-flow of the Pakistani economy used to take place on Chundrigar Road. Built in 1963, Habib Bank Plaza remained Pakistan's tallest building [23 storeys] until 2000s when it was outgrown by two other buildings in Karachi.

Most major foreign multinational corporations operating in Pakistan have their headquarters in Karachi. The Karachi Stock Exchange is the largest stock exchange in Pakistan, and is considered by many economists to be one of the prime reasons for Pakistan's 8% GDP growth after 2005. A recent report by Credit Suisse on Pakistan's stock market is a testimonial to its strong fundamentals, estimating Pakistan's relative return on equities at 26.7pc, compared to Asia's 11pc.

Karachi has large industrial zones such as Karachi Export Processing Zone, SITE, *Korangi*, Northern Bypass Industrial Zone, Bin Qasim and North Karachi, located on the fringes of the main city. Its primary areas of industry are textiles, pharmaceuticals, steel, and automobiles. In addition, Karachi has a cottage industry and there is a Free Zone with an annual growth rate of nearly 6.5%.

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013;** concluding the debate on the provincial budget during the Sindh Assembly session and addressing MQM lawmakers in the house, Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah pointed out that:

*"Karachi loses Rs:15 billion every day that it remains shut. Karachi is a city for everyone and if any party has reservations then it should talk to the government instead of giving frequent strike calls.*

*The [MQM] party complained about insufficient funds for Karachi, yet it continues to announce shutter downs. I want you to know that the residents of Karachi, the business community and the rest of the country are suffering because of this."*

Referring to one of the MQM members' speech on the arrest of 100 workers of their party, CM Shah denied that any party workers were arrested. **"We have arrested some notorious criminals but we don't know if the MQM owns them. All criminals – whether they belong to the PPP, MQM or PML[N] – should have no room in any party."**

#### **MQM APPEARS AT CITY'S HORIZON:**

Monthly **Herald of July 2014** started an essay on MQM with an opening lyric once said by *Mohsin Bhopali* – an Urdu poet:

***Manzil unhey milee jo shareek-e-safar na thay*** [Those who reached the destination were not even part of the journey]

Pakistan was created in 1947; mass migration took place with greater mobilisation of the Urdu-speaking community to Karachi – later called themselves as '**Muhajir**'.

Many reasons are attributed to the rise of the MQM: it was predicated on a demand for greater jobs in the state apparatus, including the civil bureaucracy and the military; it was an organic awakening of identity consciousness; it was an inevitable outcome of Pakistan's unstable politics, driven in some part by the fact that the political elite comprised refugees. Whatever the reason, the fact is that the pendulum swung the other way, perhaps too far the other way.

Altaf Hussain's ***All Pakistan Muhajir Student Organization*** [APMSO], was founded on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1978 which subsequently gave birth to the ***Muhajir Qaumi Movement*** [MQM] on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1984.

In its early years, MQM drew enormous crowds, the height of which was the rally of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1986 at Nishtar Park Karachi where all of a sudden, an-ex student leader Altaf Hussain had brought a smudge of bodies in thrall. The *Mohajirs* – specifically the migrants from Muslim minority states and provinces in India – had ***emerged as 'fifth nationality' in Pakistan.***

Three years into its existence, MQM won the November 1987 local body elections in Karachi and Hyderabad and had several mayors succeeded unopposed. The PPP won the highest number of seats in the general elections of 1988 and formed a coalition government in the Sindh Province with the help of MQM, which then had a larger mandate in urban Sindh in comparison to PPP whose majority of support came from rural areas of Sindh.

A 59-point agreement, called the ***Karachi Accord***, was signed which included statements about protection of the democratic system and political rights, urban development goals, and creating objective criteria for admissions to universities and colleges. The alliance broke up in October 1989 and MQM joined hands with PPP's opponents – but the MQM had marked its first political triumph.

***NINE ZERO [90]***; was the birthplace of the MQM – where more than a dozen young men would squeeze themselves into the front room of the house, often spilling out on to the street outside – Nine Zero was never really its official headquarters. Actually it was Eight Nine, a small set of rooms in an apartment building in Liaqatabad, which was taken over by

members of the breakaway *Haqiqi* faction at the start of the military operation against the MQM in June 1992.

MQM never attempted to regain control of Eight Nine – but Nine Zero was kept open. Hussain had left for London by the time Operation Clean-Up commenced in Karachi. But it seems that his absence only added to the importance of his house and headquarters – particularly for a community whose political narrative is weaved around the idea of loss. Indeed, a visit to Nine Zero can feel a bit like a pilgrimage: a trip to the house of an entity who isn't physically present, but whose imprint is visible everywhere.

In ending 1991, Altaf Hussain had gone into hiding but his absence only added to the importance of the Nine Zero – particularly for a community whose political narrative was identity of the *Muhajirs*. Intriguingly, there is no graffiti within Azizabad, like you spot almost everywhere else in the city.

[Zahida Begum was one of the workers who kept Nine Zero open during the 1990s. There were times when she had to drive the Hi-Lux [Toyota] that Altaf Hussain used to own because there were no men to do the driving, she says.

*"I froze, I couldn't open the door, I couldn't imagine driving the car that belonged to my Quaid, sitting in his seat. Even now, at Nine Zero, she can't bear to sit on the sofa where Hussain would normally sit."* Monthly **Herald of July 2014** is referred again.

***Sometime during the 1990s, her husband got fed up of her political activities and told her to bring them to an end. She left him instead.***]

MQM's success story of 1990s and thereafter is otherwise known to all – let us refresh our memories in the pages ahead.

However, before moving to the next pages – kindly keep in mind the recent past of Karachi. See a script from the foreign press archives dated **24<sup>th</sup> March 2014:**

*"The highest stakes in Pakistani politics take place not in the tribal borderlands, nor in the discreet or refined salons of Islamabad, but in Karachi, the seaside metropolis and the country's throbbing economic heart.*

*Karachi was the world's most violent city, with about 2,000 murders in 2013 [compared to 787 in Juarez of Mexico] as a result of its virulent gang politics.*

*The city's gangsters, unlike their South American counterparts, are not simple outlaws; rather, **they are openly linked to Pakistan's national politics**, in an ecology that runs from the street-side 'bhatta' extortions up to the highest corridors of state office."*

#### ***POLITICS & EXILE OF ALTAF BHAI:***

Altaf Hussain has been the founder and chief of the MQM [*till at least 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016*]. Previously known as the *Mohajir Qaumi Movement*, Hussain's party started off as a political group with the aim of representing the Urdu-speaking community which had migrated to Pakistan due to Partition.

Hussain escaped Karachi one month before the operation began, following an attack on his life **on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1991**, Hussain fled to London and applied for political asylum there which matured in or around 2001; since then Hussain lives in self-exile in London.

Hussain was born on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1953 in Karachi; obtained his early education in Karachi's Azizabad neighbourhood - middle class locality where the MQM chief spent his early years and his youth. He later enrolled at the University of Karachi [KU] to study Pharmacy and graduated from the program in 1979.

Hussain's political career began during his student years in KU when he and Azeem Ahmed Tariq founded the All-Pakistan Mohajir Students Organisation [APMSO]. Formed in 1978, APMSO gained a massive following within a short period of time managed to almost double its strength with its inclusion in the anti-Zia United Students Movement [USM] during the 1981 KU's union election.

In 1984, key APMSO leaders launched the *Mohajir Qaumi Movement* – a political party that was to serve as student organisation's senior partner. The party was publicly launched by Hussain in Karachi's Nishtar Park in 1986.

*[The first wave of violence between the Pakhtun and Mohajir communities was witnessed in 1985. While the MQM had no public role in those riots, since then the city had been subjected to repeated bouts of urban warfare.*

*Back then, the major Mohajir-Pakhtun clashes in various localities involved the Irfanullah Marwat - led Punjabi-Pakhtun Ittehad; as held by Irfan Husain in daily the 'Dawn' dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012.]*

Ethnic strife and continual bouts of urban conflicts were nearing a climax at that time and MQM quickly gained recognition with a good number of supporters in Karachi.

Under Altaf Hussain's leadership, MQM swept the 1988 elections in Sindh's urban areas, emerging as the third largest party. It entered into a cooperation agreement with Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP], enabling it to become part of the government. However, sharp differences developed between the parties very soon and in 1989 the alliance fell apart.

In the 1990 elections, MQM again emerged as the third largest party forming an alliance and a coalition government with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, the leading party at the time. The coalition partners again suffered a fall out in 1992. Both PPP and PML[N] led coalition governments tottered on the edge of collapse, after Hussain and his party withdrew from the coalitions.

In late 1991, the MQM chief went into exile as the government at the time conducted an operation in Karachi. The operation, said to be directed against "terrorist" and "criminal" elements in Karachi, resulted in effectively becoming action against MQM. Hussain's elder brother Nasir Hussain and nephew Arif Hussain were also killed during that period of violence.

Altaf Hussain's MQM boycotted the 1993 National Assembly election but won a considerable number of seats in the Sindh Assembly election, proving MQM to be a powerful political party in Karachi.

In 1997, MQM changed its name from Mohajir Qaumi Movement to **Muttahida Qaumi Movement** in order to develop from a party representing a single community to one that could play a greater role in national politics.

The MQM had mostly been accused of using violent tactics to get and retain political power. On the contrary, Hussain always said that the state and other political parties had targeted MQM and its workers ever since its formation.

**MOVING TO KARACHI – THINK:**

Referring to program FACTS at 'ARY ZAUQ TV' on **29<sup>th</sup> June 2016**; six awesome facts about Karachi were told to the viewers.

*With the security issues and the water shortages facing the metropolis, Karachi is getting a lot of bad rep these days but it is still a great city and we have the facts to prove it. Here are those facts about - the city of lights.*

### **#1. It is the second largest city in the world by city population**

With a population crossing 23.5 million in the city proper, Karachi can be ranked as the second largest city in the world. This is a population twice that of London and four times that of Singapore.

### **#2. In terms of city proper, Karachi is more than 4 times the size of New York City**

With a total area of 3,527 Km<sup>2</sup> Karachi is roughly 4.5 times the size of New York City in USA (783 Km<sup>2</sup>). However, the area around NYC is much more urbanized and if we take the total urban area into account, NYC is bigger than Karachi.

### **#3. Karachi generates 52% of Pakistan's Tax revenue**

A major chunk of country's tax revenue comes from within Karachi. Since Pakistan's inception, Karachi has always been the centre of economic and commercial activity. It is the most business friendly city in Pakistan and further contributes 25% to the National GDP. Despite this, the provincial government only invests 5% in the city from its total budget.

### **#4. During the 1960s, Karachi was widely seen as an economic model around the world**

During the reign of Ayub Khan, many countries in the world tried to emulate the economic plan of Karachi. Seoul, one of the richest cities in the world now, copied the city's 5-year plan in 1962. Neglect and ethnic violence later caused the city's gradual decline.

### **#5. Karachi is among the cheapest city to live in**

According to global human resources company Mercer, Karachi is one of the most inexpensive cities to live in - as well as the most fun!

## **#6. Karachi is also the media electronic capital of Pakistan**

Many major media television channels headquartered in the city, such as ARY Digital, Dawn News and Geo TV, firmly establishing the city as the electronic media capital of the country.

At an internet site ***Karachista.com***, Salima Feerasta jogs down very interesting possibilities if at all one plans to move to Karachi; referred to its **November 2014** account:

**Karachi – messy, slightly dangerous and hot as hell – it’s a place that will infuriate you and seduce you.**

This is as cosmopolitan as Pakistan gets – you’ll meet all sorts in Karachi. Fast-paced and just a bit insane, it’s a city that will get under your skin.

### ***1. You will become blasé about security***

Sure, armed guards are the norm and you instinctively avoid no-go areas but, in general, life goes on. When strikes, muggings and the like are so common it’s difficult to maintain a heightened level of worry.

Concerned relatives from out of town will phone you after a scary news report but you’re likely to be at a restaurant or GT when they call. No changing plans unless bullets are actually flying - and if they are, you’ll be so practiced that you can have the shutters down and the drawbridge up in less than 10 minutes.

### ***2. You will become lazy and totally dependent on your maid***

You may have cleaned your whole house, done the laundry, shopped for groceries AND cooked when you were abroad but now you’ll resent having to go down to the kitchen yourself to get a cup of tea.

### ***3. You will get robbed***

Consider it a rite of passage and pray that you get off lightly.

Hopefully the worst that will happen is that someone will steal your wallet or phone at gunpoint. Some traffic signals are notorious for this and I have an uncle who faced a gun at two consecutive traffic signals. Hopefully you won’t be kidnapped or have your home invaded by robbers but in a city like Karachi there are no guarantees.

You will definitely know someone who's gone through this horrible ordeal.

**4. Your wardrobe will gradually turn beige and white**

It may be our tropical climate or our love of subtle chic, but Karachiites wear a LOT of white, off-white, ecru and beige. Live here for any length of time and your wardrobe will start to reflect this.

**5. Your driving will deteriorate**

Karachi's pick and mix attitude to traffic laws will get to you sooner or later.

Most drivers ignore traffic rules completely and operate on the principal of "might is right". The horn is king and giving way is unheard of.

You can try to stick to sensible driving practices but it's likely that one day you will decide, "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em".

**6. You will realise that electricity and running water are luxuries**

Karachi is definitely better off than many rural areas of Pakistan but the sort of uninterrupted services you get abroad are a dream for Karachiites.

You will come to rely heavily on your electricity generator and your water tanker *wallah*.

**7. You'll become surgically attached to your sunnies**

The sun shines here almost 365 days a year. As glorious as that sounds to those who live in more gloomy climates, the constant bright sunshine can get to you. If you couldn't retreat behind your sunnies, you'd go mad.

**8. You will lose weight**

Karachi subscribes wholeheartedly to the adage that "*you can never be too rich or too thin*".

The average socialite in Karachi is significantly lighter than her counterparts in other parts of Pakistan. You'll find yourself joining the gym or an exercise class or downloading diet plans.

If you're coming from abroad, you'll drop a few pounds from the repeated stomach infections that you'll get as your body develops immunity to our local bugs.

***9. You will realise that 'chai pani' is necessary to get anything done***

'*Chai pani*' has nothing to do with *chai* (tea) or *pani* (water) and everything to do with greasing palms. It's not a coincidence that Pakistan ranks among the most corrupt countries in the world.

***10. Your friends will become your extended family***

Even though living in Karachi can be a challenge, it holds some of the most generous, warm hearted people in the world.

You will make very dear friends who will be like family.