

## **A Sketch of Pakistan (2): Friday Market in Islamabad**

In issue 6, I introduced the Souk Juma in Damascus, Syria. In this issue, let me talk about Juma Bazaar in Pakistan. "Juma" means Friday and "bazaar" means market. So, the Juma bazaar is a market held on Friday, the local holiday. (In Damascus, the permanent-looking Souk Juma seems to open on days other than Friday as well). These photographs show different views of the market in Islamabad, Pakistan. They were taken only a few minutes walk from the Holiday Inn Hotel (which used to be called the Islamabad Hotel).

Usually, this area is very quiet, but every Friday, many tented shops are erected. It is very similar to the free markets often seen on Sundays in Japan. Shops mainly sell vegetables and fruits, however, there are shops selling spices, clothes, toys and groceries. Clothes and grocery shops are set up in booths divided by concrete walls, and vegetable and fruit shops open in an adjacent empty space.

Products vary depending on the seasons. The main vegetables in the market are onions, potatoes, radishes, carrots, eggplants, cucumbers, water melons, cabbages, cauliflowers, spinach, tomatoes, okra, and chilli. Common fruits are mango, papaya, orange, lime, banana, apple, apricot and pomegranate. Occasionally, strawberries are seen, too. As for the spices which are indispensable for cooking in Pakistan, these are sold in powdered form often arranged in cone-shaped heaps as in the photographs.

Souk Juma and Juma bazaars are seen in many different areas in Islamic societies, and they function as a network of people, commodities and information, linking cities, rural areas and desert regions. Visiting such souks can yield useful information for our field surveys, since they often provide us with an insight into local culture and tradition.



**Shops selling women's shawls**



**A cauliflower vendor**



**Fruits such as apples, papayas and melons are for sale**



**Many types of spices**