

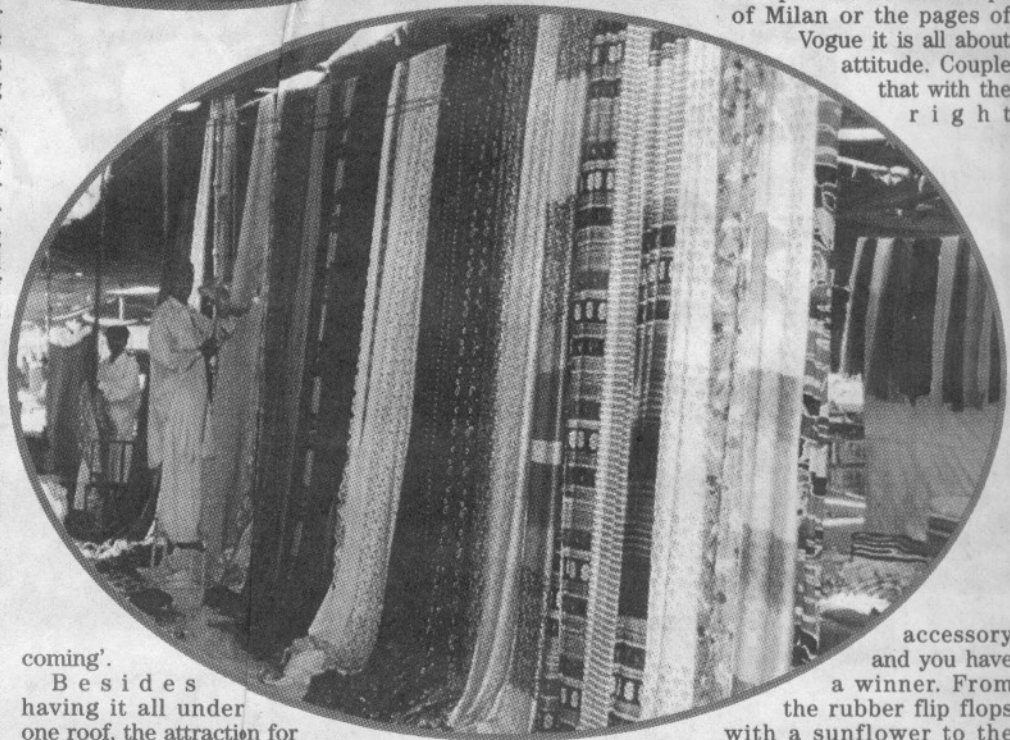


strategically near the book stall, and consisted of four college going females in their abstract printed lawn *foras* pointing excitedly towards Hrithik Roshan's wedding photographs.

The background score of the bazaar, blends to the tune of the latest *Jhankar* cassette, with Shazia Manzoor and Asha Bhosle crooning upbeat broken hearted melodies. Jarring noises of the persistent shopkeepers who keep enticing buyers with calls of "two for the price of one", make up the other half of the score.

Beside the noises, the frantic buzzing of the buyers is the other fascinating aspect. A lot can be observed from the going ons that commence in the morning—they reach a feverish pitch around the afternoon and simmer down by late evening, politely bidding adieu till we meet again at the next gathering.

Little tell tale signs speak volumes of the people, and



coming'.

Besides having it all under one roof, the attraction for this place predominantly lies

from a mill whose prints a draped around the cover girl and flashed in all leading magazines as part of the advertising campaign. Chances are that most of your Sunday bazaar buys are not likely to be replicated by too many, then again *maasi* and *memsahib* could also head off to their respective jobs wearing the same black and white stripes. But seek solace in the fact that over the years, these tiny eyes have spotted majority of the designer squad holding the latest silk and pondering over its weight or the fall it is likely to give.

The secret to being fashionable is not wearing what is en vogue, instead according to pundits who cast their opinions on the ramps of Milan or the pages of Vogue it is all about attitude. Couple that with the right

accessory and you have a winner. From the rubber flip flops with a sunflower to the embroidered catchels to add

their tastes. From the rows of tiny outfits to accoutre our growing nation, it is indeed a sight for anyone with an iota of maternal urges to see the little sun dresses and dungarees on the racks for the little people, the tragic aspect being that it will not be long before the "Generation Trendy" is confined to its dosage of proper attire like shalwar kameezes or conservative western. Fashion wise, according to the social norms or in reference to differentiation between the sexes, a contrast is apparent as one views demure dopatta covered heads clutching on to their bags, sunglasses firmly positioned on the nasal bridge on one side, and the men affirming their representation with khaki shorts, scruffy sandals complete with the attitude 'we were forced in to

as place predominantly lies in its discounted prices as compared to retail outlets. Claims of selling the same thing twenty five percent lower than its market price is true in most cases. From video cassettes to vegetables, the advantages of bulk buying are reaped both by the seller and the buyer. A lot of people looking for good bargains (a virtue found mostly in the fairer sex) also frequent these weekly set ups because they can stock up a whole weeks supply in a single visit at a cut rate price. Whilst Brooke Bond tea and Dalda *banaspati* boxes hold their place of pride, the success factor or the main attraction is the fabric.

It is easy to get lost in the fluttering curtains of lawn, khaddar and even silk that bellow on clothes lines. With vibrant prints and patterns it

seems a colorful, festive explosion is underway. From mills in Faisalabad to a remote corner near Seaview the *jora* that travels cross country is available at half the price of its designer counterparts. And designer *chickan* cloth manufacturers are defeated in their sales purpose in the very same *galli* for a number of matrons were last found gushing over the delicate pattern and softness of the selected shirt piece and it leaves no doubt to the curious mind where their summer wardrobe is going to be supplied from.

From net to silk, the predominant factor remains reasonable prices that are hiked in shopping centers due to overheads and shop costs, along with the excess paid for the satisfaction of boasting an "exclusive collection" label

with a sunflower to the embroidered satchels, to add the chic edge to your outfit, can be found in this very place and have the ability to pose as simply chic.

Some of the jewellery is garish, the clips irritatingly plastic and ice cream colored, but upon browsing through the horde little treasures are found here and there. Though Karachi's Sunday bazaars remains the ultimate shoppers' dream, Islamabad's bazaar can give Paris's flea market a run for it's money. The Islamabad market has become one of the highlights of a trip to the capital. From old carpets to little silver knick knacks or pieces of antique chinaware called "*gardanars*", can be found there. Interestingly the story behind these beautiful artifacts is that all sub-continental royalty including the Moghuls ate from it, and