

# It's festival time — Bangladeshi style

By **CLIVE GRESSWELL**



**● Glorious heritage — organiser Ashuk Ahmed wants the first August Bangladesh Festival to be an annual event.**

**THE FIRST** Luton Bangladesh Festival is to be held in the town at the end of the month.

Organised by the Mitalee Youth Association, and hosted at Beech Hill School in Dunstable Road, there will be a week of events from August 23 to 29.

One of the organisers, Ashuk Ahmed, said: "It is the first time ever in Bedfordshire that such a big Bangladesh Festival has happened. We are hoping to make it an annual event."

The festival has the backing of Beds County Council, Luton Borough Council, the Eastern Arts Board and Luton Arts Council.

Mr Ahmed said: "The main object of the festival is to acquaint the new generation living in the United Kingdom with the culture and traditions of Bangladesh."

## Culture

Famous artists from Bangladesh are to perform in the town during the festival.

There will be special cultural displays, book stalls, discussions, art and craft exhibitions and Bangladeshi cooking.

Mitalee Youth Association was formed in Luton in 1984 aimed at projecting Bangladeshi history and culture.

Mr Ahmed, who is its general secretary, said: "It has been responsible for many activities, especially for the welfare of the young generation.

"Bangladesh is one of the developing countries of the Third World. We have a glorious heritage of history, literature, art and culture."



## So close

**A TEAM** of Bangladeshi youths, pictured left, competed with teams from all over the country in a recent football tournament, beating several strong London sides, to reach the semi-finals.