



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Bullfighting *a unique event*

THE farming community in Bangladesh, celebrates the year's new harvest amid a variety of festivals. Each area proudly follows its own tradition of celebrations. Bullfighting is an event unique to the harvest festival, but sadly, it is fast becoming extinct.

Today, only one district in Bangladesh hosts this event. This is organised through the enthusiasm and effort of the local people. In Netrokona, after farmers have harvested their main 'aman' rice crop, the cleared rice field is trans-

formed into an arena for the local harvest festival's major attraction - the bullfight.

Sometimes the bull owners -- farmers themselves, take the help of village medicine men and black magicians to ensure a win. In unquestioning faith, chants,

prayers, purifying smoke, amulets and pungent water are some different methods used to bring luck to the fighter bull.

Farmers, medicine men and thousands of eager spectators then focus their attention on the arena. Excitement reaches fever pitch as

the crowd waits patiently. The bullfight at last!

Photo & story : MAIN UDDIN

