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পৃষ্ঠা ... কলাম ...

Letters

Halda Excavation And Drainage

Sir,—The Halda, a tributary of the Karnafuli, is an important river of North Chittagong. In the past it was deep and navigable and people could easily transport their goods. Tillers could irrigate their lands in dry season. But it is now shallow and almost out of use as its bed has been silted up. This is one of the major causes of flood in the places nearby. Spate frequently comes in the river during the rainy season and carries away property causing havoc and distress to the farmers. Sometimes cattle and human beings are even lost in the fierce current of the river. Homesteads, educational institutions, hat-bazars, clubs, mosques, etc. of the neighbouring villages are inundated. Most of the people of the area suffer awfully owing to the disruption of communication. Their grief knows no bound. It is understood from public view that the Government once decided to improve the condition of the river by dredging its bed, raising the banks, drainage, etc. with the aid of the World Bank in collaboration with foreign experts. But the scheme has neither

been abandoned nor materialised as yet for some unknown reason. However, if the scheme for improving the river's condition be tried by the relevant authority a vast area will be economically developed both in agriculture and industry. In this connection I would like to offer the following suggestions:

1. The river should be regularly dredged.

2. The flow of the river should be diverted and made straight as far as possible so that it may flow direct into the Karnafuli without any obstruction. This will minimise the ravages of flood.

3. The banks of the river should be sufficiently raised and may be conveniently turned into high roads for good communication.

4. The authority concerned should take up a scheme for excavation and drainage of several irrigation canals starting from different convenient sides of the river to some of the remotest cultivable lands where water is scarcely available in the dry season. This will yield various types of crops including copious paddy and vegetables annually. Canals may be used for fish cultivation in large scale too.—Yours, etc.,
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