

Better infrastructure

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Our third paper is BNBC which is a complete code of building structure. Structural vulnerability is the major concern in the case of disaster. We are not abiding by the BNBC and there is a very little effort from the government to ensure that is followed.

Another point is the solar source of electricity for the buildings. DESCO has promulgated a rule to have 3.5% electricity generation from the solar source. I think we should seriously look into the issue.

DS Asif, Architect

I want to focus on the battery issue. Where will you dispose the battery residues? Careless disposal can cause serious hazards. I do not think it is a green decision.

Mubashar Hussain

Now, for 13 bulbs you have to pay 4.5 lakh taka, which is absurd. We can provide electricity for 1 fan, 1 TV and 2 lights by 25,000 taka only. We should provide this facility in Char areas where it is difficult for the electricity suppliers to reach.

Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

Why insist on battery backup as every house has generator system now. It is unnecessary.

Mubashar Hussain

We can save a huge amount of electricity by using solar heater which is very popular in China, Malaysia, and Korea.

Tawfique Ali, Sr. Reporter, The Daily Star

We are not following the BNBC. I have found two illegal buildings of our law makers in Gulshan. Rajuk allows many such unauthorized buildings. We have heard about a mechanism called building code .but it is yet to be implemented.

M. Mahbub UI Alam

We have taken up the issue seriously .A committee has been formed for illegal high rises. Many plans are passed outside of Rajuk.

Rajuk. When we charge the violators they go to the court and get injunction. Then we have to wait for further court procedure and the transgressors continue their business of developing buildings in the meantime. This is a frustrating situation, but we are trying to recover Rajuk's image, we need public support.

The official status of DAP is that a committee has been formed where the DAP related cases are supposed to be moved.

Tawfique Ali

The Tejgaon airport area is under the



Cooling bed

jurisdiction of the Rajuk according to the master plan .Rajuk has not sent any note claiming their right on the land to proceed with a people oriented project like metro rail.

ASM Ismail, Chief Architect, Dept. of Architecture, MOHP

DAP is not the first plan for Dhaka. Since the British period there have been several plans, but problems remain in the implementation. We only get deviation and frustration. Why are we asking for DAP? We usually blame Rajuk. Did we not force them to violate? In the 1954 plan we had many green areas, 52 green fields in Old Dhaka. We failed to execute the plan. Our politicians and decision makers lack commitment. We have plan for every Upazilla but nobody follows the rules .We have no manpower at the grass root level to look after it.

Our planners go to Europe but not to our neighbors. If you go to Kolkata you will find massive changes. In the 70s it was a nightmare to go from Chaurangi to Howrah. Now it takes only 25-30 minutes. I do not find any technical gap between India and us. They keep commitment to changes and get good results. Singapur established Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) in the 70s. Their only duty was to control development and make plans. Rajuk should only do master plan and ensure its follow up. They should just follow URA. Rajuk should avoid

getting into the business of developing housing projects. We have National Housing Authority, they should do housing. In Singapore there are different authorities for different services, and they have proper coordination which we lack severely.

We are yet to get any positive achievement in reducing traffic jam. It is not possible to stop migration at once. In China, people of one province cannot reside in another province. They strictly maintain it. So there is a balance. Another point is that we have to have respect for law and order. DTPC established signaling system spending 13 crore taka, but it does not work. Kolkata used private sector like school teachers for traffic management and got significant success. In Bangladesh, you will find over bridge at the junction which looks very odd. It should be at such a place where you cannot go across the road with over-bridge.

Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

In the policy volume of the STP you will find all the provisions, but we have no political leadership like Kolkata.

ASM Ismail

BNBC is already here, but we have violated

it already in building government structures. Different authorities have different duties in discharging BNBC. We need proper coordination.

According the Building Construction Act you can challenge whether the court can take the case? We have to make use of these provisions. Government gives Rajuk blank cheque to fight cases and hire top lawyers.

Government has made decision to use solar panel, but I do not personally think that it is a green decision because dumping of battery is a huge problem.

We are updating the 1993 Building Construction Act. I urge that those who are the endorsing authority for building should be more capable. We are urging to include these options in the new code.

Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

There is a reference to ensure that the plan and designs that are approved should be in conformity with the BNBC 1993. We published a gazette which is not comprehensible to the general people. There are regulations for every municipalities but the point is whether it is being followed.

ASM Ismail

Now, we are trying to incorporate the provision that the municipality authorities should follow BNBC. They usually follow municipality Act.

Md Tofazzal Hussain, GM, Marketing and Sales (Dhaka Office), KSRM
We are doing our social responsibility to create awareness among the general people. These issues should be widely circulated by the newspapers. If we continue these efforts we will get success. Our aim is to make people aware so that they follow the building code.

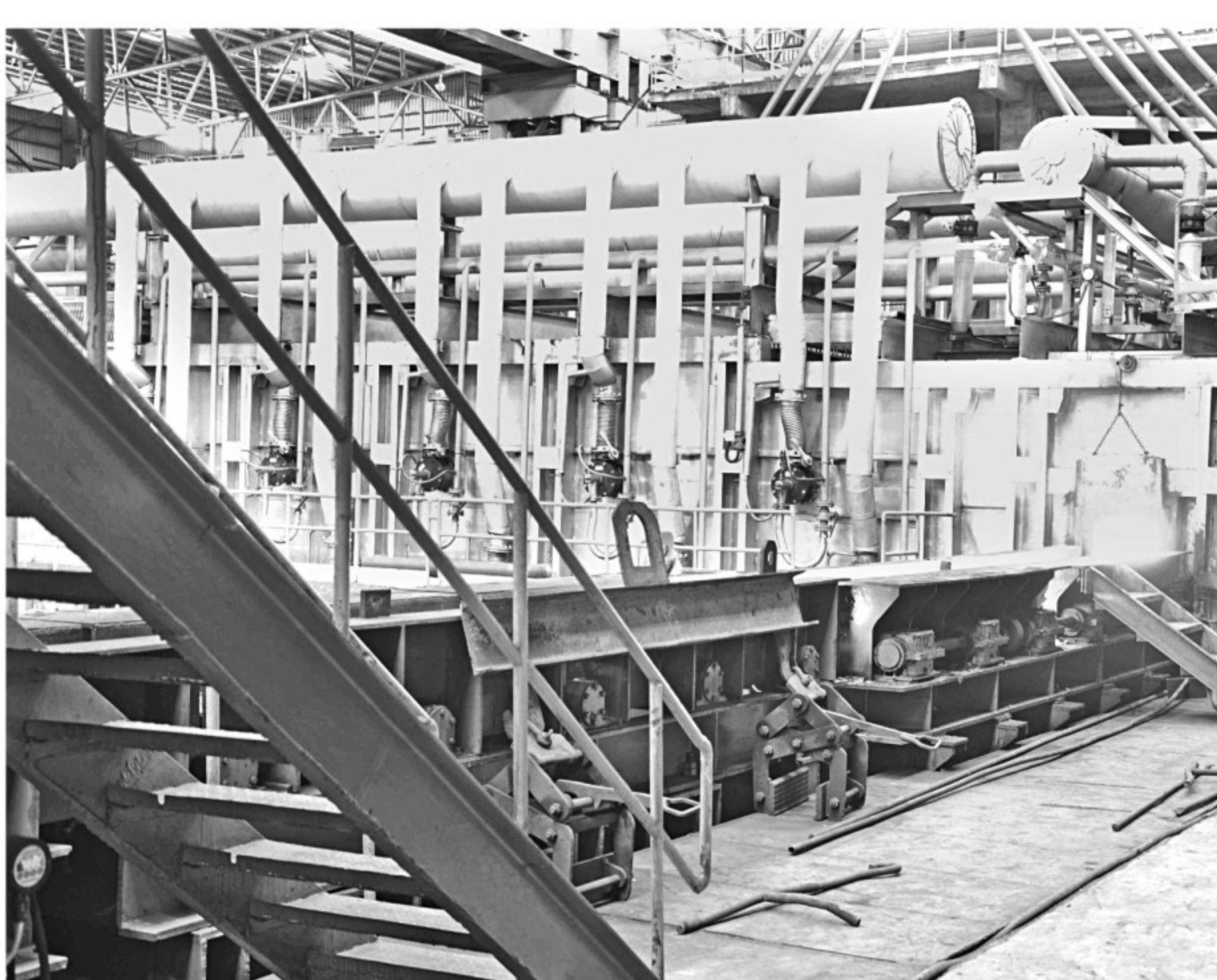
We should also look outside of Dhaka. Chittagong is going to be another Dhaka city. Everything is moving in the same direction. The main cause that lies behind our distress is the political will. We do not see any political commitment. DAP's implementation is a political issue. We have to come forward to force them to implement the DAP.

We have to build earthquake resistant building. KSRM is using British standard to protect against earthquake. We subsidize for the sake of better quality and better product.

Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury

If you ensure ductility and strength according to the building code then you are doing your duty .Your social responsibility is laudable.

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Billet reheating furnace



Overview of rolling unit