SUPPLEMENT

CLEAN BUILD

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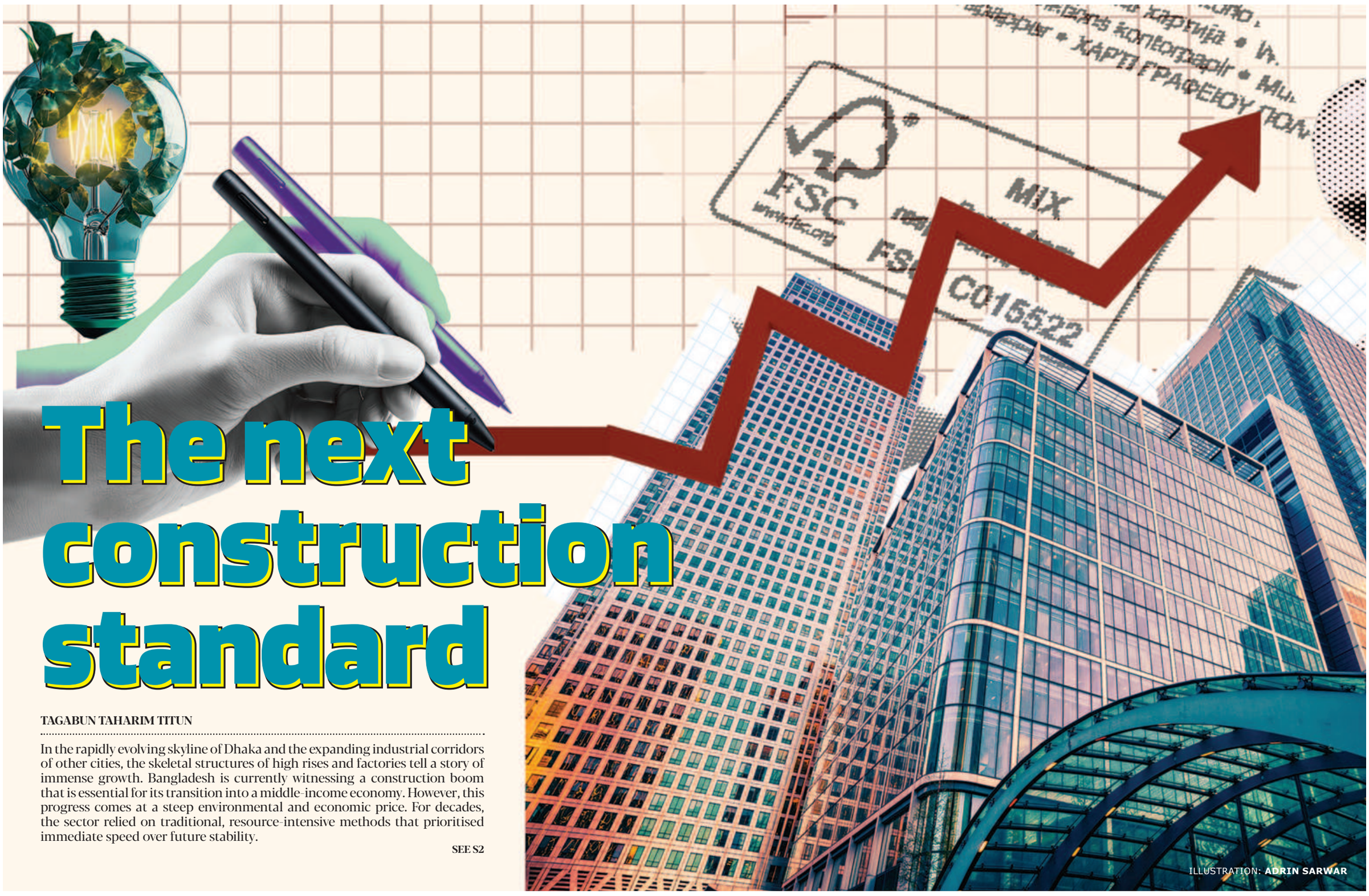

The next construction standard

TAGABUN TAHARIM TITUN

In the rapidly evolving skyline of Dhaka and the expanding industrial corridors of other cities, the skeletal structures of high rises and factories tell a story of immense growth. Bangladesh is currently witnessing a construction boom that is essential for its transition into a middle-income economy. However, this progress comes at a steep environmental and economic price. For decades, the sector relied on traditional, resource-intensive methods that prioritised immediate speed over future stability.

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ILLUSTRATION: ADRIN SARWAR

Can Ceramics Build A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

TAGABUN TAHARIM TITUN

In the world of architecture and interior design, surfaces are frequently viewed through the lens of aesthetics alone. We choose a floor or a wall finish based on how it catches the light or how it complements a piece of furniture. However, as the global push for environmental responsibility intensifies, the conversation is shifting. Designers and homeowners are starting to realise that surfaces do far more than just finish a space.

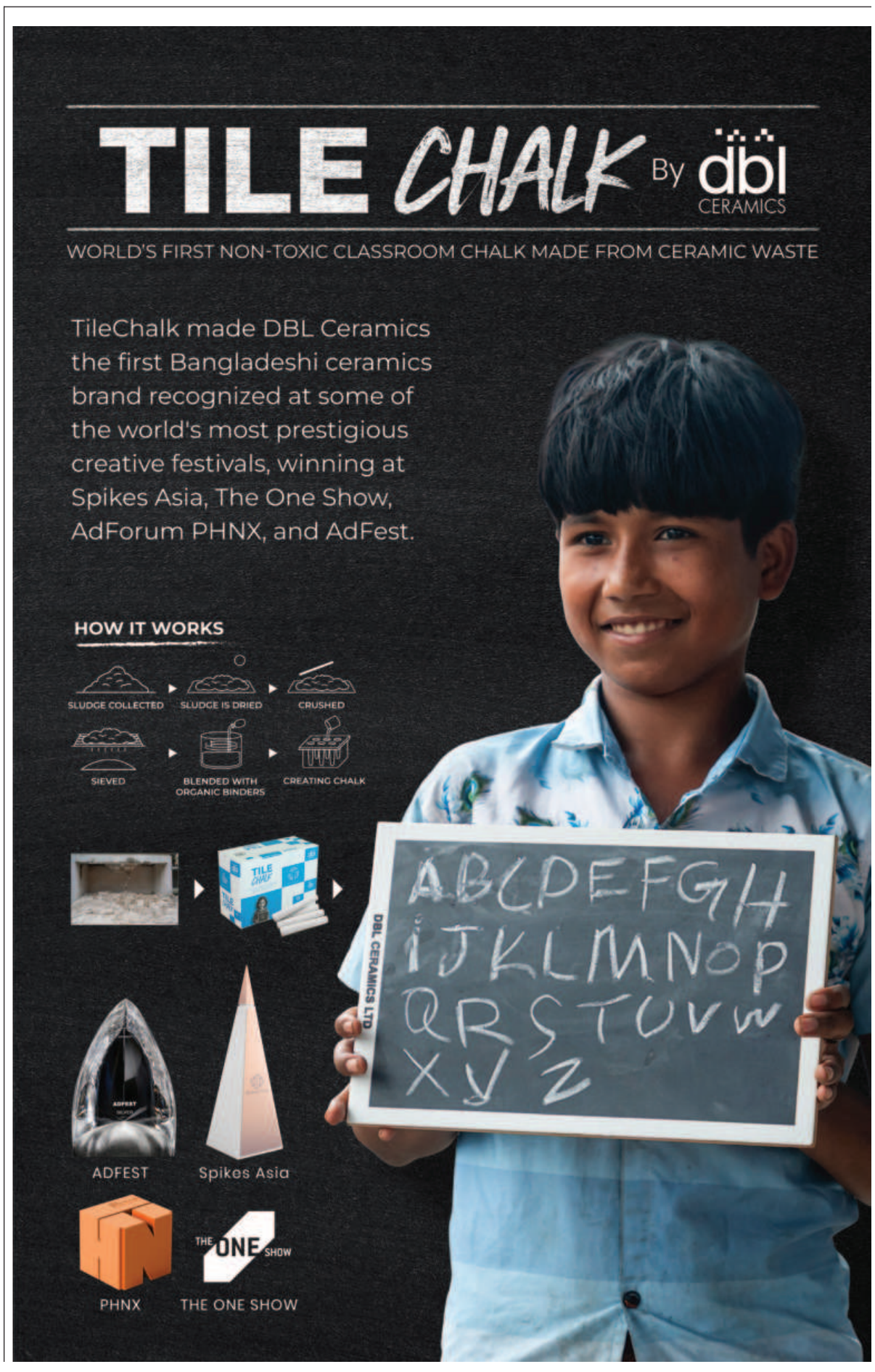
THE END OF DISPOSABLE DESIGN

The most sustainable product is often the one that never needs to be replaced. In an era dominated by fast fashion and disposable interiors, ceramics stand as a defiance against the culture of waste. Unlike synthetic laminates or carpets that may wear out, fade, or trap odours within a few years, high-quality ceramic tiles are designed to last for decades. The durability of ceramics also means they can withstand high traffic, moisture, and chemical exposure without losing their structural integrity. When a material does not degrade, it stays out of the landfill. This longevity transforms a surface from a temporary decorative choice into a long-term environmental asset. In the broader context of urban development, using enduring materials is the simplest way to reduce the carbon footprint associated with constant renovation and repair.

IMPROVING INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

Ceramics are fired at extremely high temperatures, making them inorganic and completely inert. They do not outgas harmful chemicals, ensuring that the air remains clean. Furthermore, their non-porous nature prevents the growth of mould, bacteria, and allergens, which is essential for creating hypoallergenic living environments. Thermal performance is another area where surfaces play a functional role. Ceramic tiles have high thermal mass, meaning they can absorb, store, and slowly release heat. In warmer climates, they remain cool to the touch, reducing the need for intensive air conditioning. In colder settings, they can be paired with radiant heating systems to distribute warmth efficiently. This natural temperature regulation helps lower energy consumption, making the home or office more self-sustaining. Ease of maintenance also plays a part. Because tiles require only water or mild, non-toxic cleaners, they eliminate the need for harsh chemicals that eventually find their way into the water system.

REVOLUTIONISING PRODUCTION

The sustainability of a surface starts long before it is installed.

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