

# DIGITAL FRONTIERS, BREAKING BARRIERS



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31

## Cryptocurrency: Should you jump...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

When a transaction is completed, it is logged in a block that becomes a part of a permanent database of these several back-and-forths.

### CAN I TRY THIS MINING THING AT HOME?

We now come to the important question, should you try mining bitcoins at home? In a statement by the Central Bank released in 2014, the use of bitcoin was banned in the country under a law that regulates trading in foreign currency without clearance from the central bank. The reason stated a lack of a central payment system that could financially cause harm to people. Anyone convicted can earn a sentence of up to 12 years in jail and other fines. So the answer is, no.

### SO SHOULD I BURY ALL MY CRYPTO-MILLIONAIRE DREAMS?

The currency has been quite volatile from its birth. But according to early 2018 forecasts by industry professionals, a single bitcoin might reach prices upwards of \$50k by the end of the year. Investors who have purchased bitcoins so far have done surprisingly well till now. But the entire thing might go up in flames tomorrow for all we know. Compared to investing in a disciplined, rudimentary stock market, it is hard to define an inherent magnitude to cryptocurrency. Hence, it would be wise to take any tips regarding cryptocurrencies investments with a grain of salt, as even though the market has seen incredible returns throughout 2017, one does not need superhuman foresight to figure that prices will definitely not keep going up forever.

### MILLIONAIRE(!) IN THE MAKING?

Initially, I considered mining Bitcoins. But some research and calculations led me to understand that it is illegal to do so and the steep electricity bills will not



be worth it. The only other way was to trade instead of mine; i.e. buy it through cryptocurrency exchange websites like Binance or Coinbase, which are also illegal in Bangladesh. Interestingly due to the govt. decree none of these websites accept transactions from Bangladesh. So instead of investing, I wanted to have a closer look at the pattern of trading. I had to

turn to my friend living in the United States who was interested in investing on intangible currencies for me to understand how this trading works. He invested a tiny amount of money in Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin through Coinbase - the biggest cryptocurrency exchange currently on the internet.

After he invested, I slowly started to understand more about

cryptocurrencies and the blockchain technology in general. He bought the coins in December 2017 and now about two months later, while the returns on his Ethereum investment have doubled; he lost money on both Bitcoin and Litecoin. He further invested on lesser known cryptocurrencies like Ripple and Cardano. It's a risky investment but in

case you still want to do, convince yourself that the amount invested was never yours, and whatever returns you might get is absolutely a bonus.

*Md Sadman Islam is a photographer for Shift, the automotive publication of The Daily Star. Md Nahiyan Naser is an ambitious engineering student with a forehead the size of the Atlantic.*



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Cement is one of the most important constituents of concrete. The function of cement in concrete is to work as that as binding material. Throughout history, such binding properties of cement had played a vital role in the process of civilization. Before invention of this material,

It was mixed with calcium oxide as binder. They were used widely in the ancient world. Then the Egyptians used calcined gypsum as cement is The Greeks and

Lime made by heating limestone and then mixed it with sand to make mortar. They also used coarser stones to make concrete. Such cement is nonhydraulic and not resistant to water. Later, the Romans found that cement with the ability to set under water could be made, which was construction of harbours The Romans were therefore.

First probably the first to manipulate systematically the properties of cementitious materials for specific applications and situations. Today most of the structural concrete is produced by Portland cement and its various modifications history At present, the cement

began in 1756 and such name was first patented in 1824. In Bangladesh, relative rapid growth of cement industry has been observed in mid 80s. At present, the cement industry of the country is the 40th largest market in the world. Primarily five types of Portland cement are used worldwide. However, in Bangladesh two types of used

Cement are produced known as CEM I and CEM II. CEM I is Ordinary Portland cement (OPC) with no SCM (Supplementary Siliceous Materials such as fly ash, slag, silica fume etc.). CEM II is the Portland Composite Cement (PCC) where SCM or pozzolana is added by replacing the clinker. In areas of durability problem such as sulphate Chloride attack, PCC performs better. Before 2003, mainly OPC was used in Bangladesh.

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