E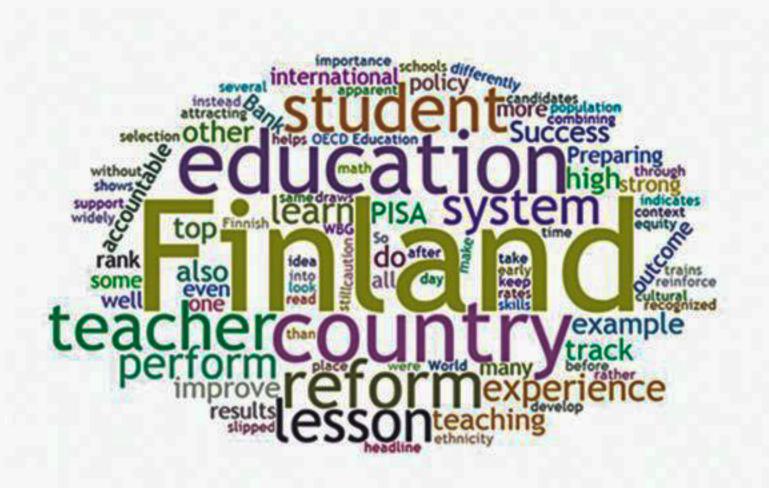very year thousands of foreign students come to Finland to pursue undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and post-doctoral level studies in Finnish universities. The number of Bangladeshi students in Finland has grown continually since the beginning of the 1980s. However, the growth could have been much faster should the interested Bangladeshi students have had adequate information at the time of application.

The whole education system – primary, secondary, and tertiary – is government funded in Finland. Education has been completely tuition-fee free for everyone including all the foreign students. However, a new law has lately been enacted by the Finnish Parliament dictating that all university education must carry a tuition fee from August 1st 2017. The fee only applies to students who come from outside the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). Universities are at present drafting scholarship schemes so they can still guarantee access to motivated and talented students. Websites of each university will provide more detailed information as the application period for

INSIDE FINNISH HIGHER EDUCATION

Autumn 2017 intake approaches.

Finnish universities offer a variety of degrees in English, alongside the native language of Finnish. Therefore, language is not a problem in getting higher education in Finland no matter where you are from.

Finnish society is egalitarian type where status is a taboo. This egalitarianism is overtly visible at all levels of educational institutions – the teacher-student relationship is very informal and close. Teachers and students call each other by their first name – a teacher is a facilitator, a guide, a coach, and a trustful mentor who helps every student to reach their academic goals.

Finland is a global leader in information and communication technology (ICT), consequently, one may see extensive use of ICT and different types of learning applications. Finnish universities offer their students world class workplace-centered and contemporary skills-based education which prepares you best for working at the 21st century globalised organisations.

Upon graduation, you can be granted a one-year residence permit to look for a job in Finland. You may even settle permanently, securing Finnish citizenship if you have a job.

In 2016 Finland scored highest in several international evaluations. The World Economic Forum (WEF) stated Finland the safest country on earth. Finland was found to be very sustainable based on indicators of risk by the Fragile States Index 2016 and number one in the Social Progress Index 2016 considering the society's capacity to "meet the basic human needs and allowing citizens to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives". ∎

PEARLS OF WISDOM

"I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER."
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
American Baptist minister and activist

"EACH DAY OF OUR LIVES WE MAKE DEPOSITS IN THE MEMORY BANKS OF OUR CHILDREN."
CHARLES R. SWINDOLL
Evangelical Christian pastor, author, educator, and radio preacher

"FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION. WE DIDN'T PASS IT TO OUR CHILDREN IN THE BLOODSTREAM. IT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR, PROTECTED, AND HANDED ON FOR THEM TO DO THE SAME."
RONALD REAGAN
Former American politician and actor

25,000

The number of dwellers who live in the seven blocks of Rohingya camp in Teknaf. Over 120000 people have fled Rakhine since religious violence in 2012, according to UNHCR.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

FIDEL ALEJANDRO CASTRO RUZ

(August 13, 1926 – November 25, 2016)

MAD GENIUS

"A revolution is not a bed of roses," believed Cuba's long time revolutionary leader Fidel Castro who ruled for nearly half a century. He was a Cuban politician and revolutionary who governed the Republic of Cuba as Prime Minister from 1959 to 1976 and then as President from 1976 to 2008. Politically a Marxist–Leninist and Cuban nationalist, he also served as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba from 1961 until 2011. Under his administration, Cuba became a one-party socialist state; industry and business were nationalised, and state socialist reforms implemented throughout society.

❝Men do not shape destiny, Destiny produces the man for the hour.

Every country must be absolutely free to adopt the type of economic, political and social system that it considers convenient.
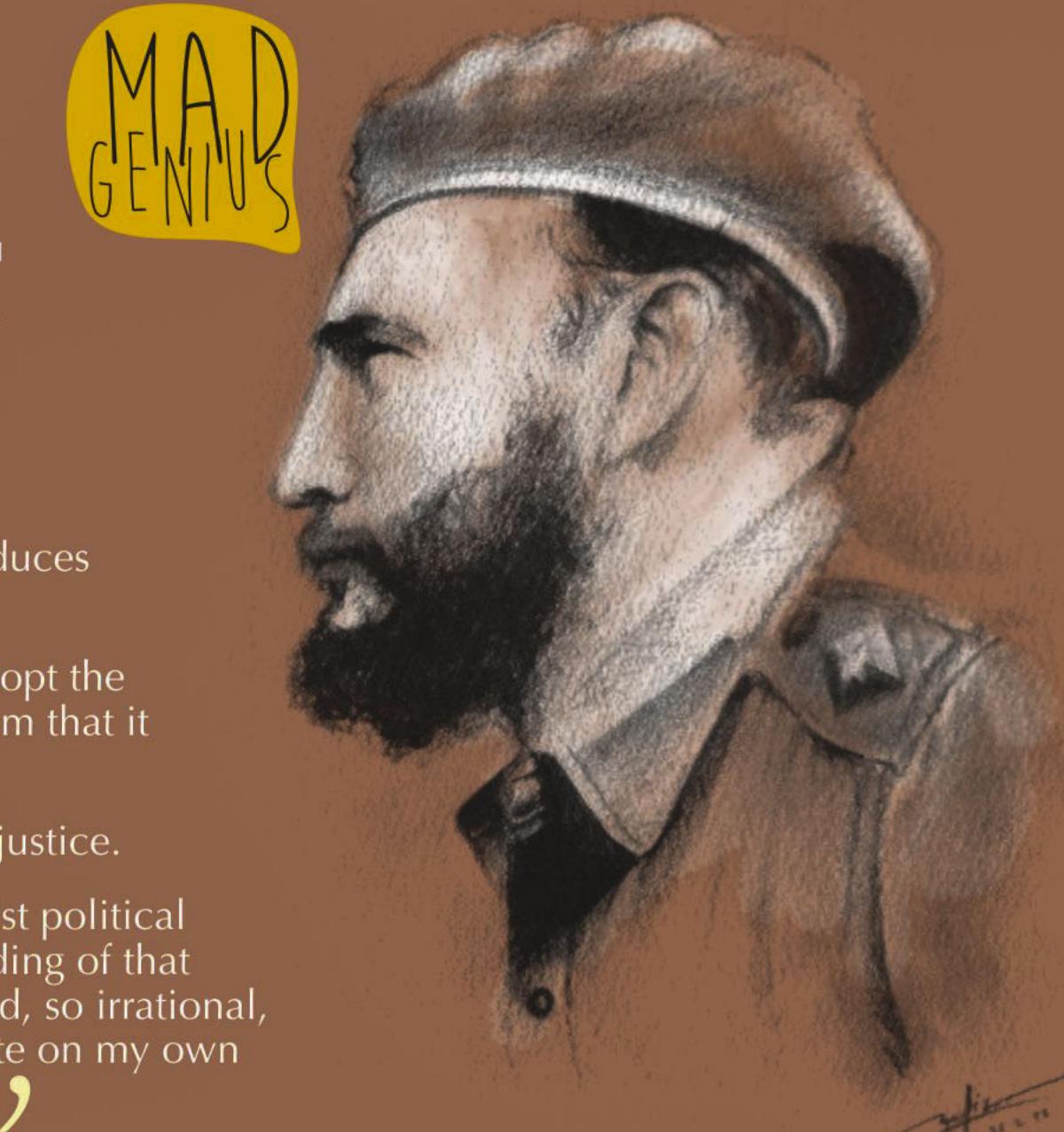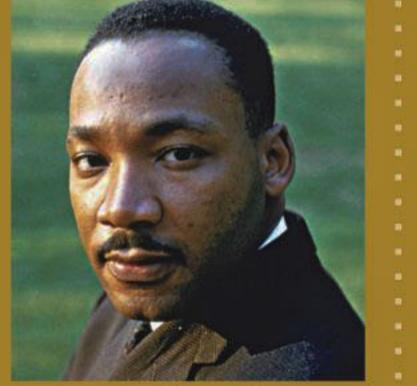
I have always fought for concrete facts, for justice.

I became a Communist by studying capitalist political economy, and when I had some understanding of that problem, it actually seemed to me so absurd, so irrational, so inhuman, that I simply began to elaborate on my own formulas for production and distribution.❞

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

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WHEN WILL IT STOP?

A few days ago, I had an incredible experience which is really worth mentioning. My brother did really well in his exam. So, we thought of celebrating his success in a very befitting manner. Accordingly, we went to a nearby sweet shop to buy some sweets. Thinking for a while, we selected one which has a good name. As we entered, we were given a warm reception, and asked what type of sweets and how much we would need. Since we wanted to celebrate his success in a grand manner, we ordered a good amount. The front display did not have more than a few kilograms. We needed more. He assured us that he had a lot of sweets being prepared in the back side of his shop and also requested us to wait for a few minutes while sweets were being soaked in sugar syrup. We were convinced. Then he went outside for five minutes. Out of curiosity, we went towards the backside of his shop. To my utter surprise, we found that the condition where our sweetmeats were being prepared was far from hygienic. We found a boy of not more than 10-year-old, soaking sweets in the syrup with his hands. The boy had a runny nose and he was sneezing time and again. He was working, sneezing and clearing his noise simultaneously. It was really a horrible scenario. It was not the boy who is liable for that situation, but the owner who found him as a cheap labour. Since our kamrangirchar area is still a poverty stricken area, poor people have no other way but to employ their wards at any work - be it a sweetmeat store or polythene collecting. Meanwhile, the owner got back and started rebuking the boy for being late in his work. He did this to convince us that he actually was trying to serve us as soon as possible. He behaved as if we had been his most valuable customers. As the boy started crying aloud in the back where he was working, the owner this time got very angry. He went inside and again rebuked the boy. Seeing the whole scenario I got really hurt. The boy was so young. He should have been in school with other boys. Now the owner applied another trick. Addressing the boy as his nephew, he slowly placed his right hand over his shoulder he patted his head and started convincing the boy in the most polite way trying to cool down the situation. We felt pity for the poor boy. At last when our sweets were ready, we went inside to bid the boy farewell. The boy was looking very sad while he was murmuring a song. I remembered one of the best poems of William Blake 'Chimney Sweeper' and was lost in the thought for a while. My brother gently pushed me and broke my sweet imagination. I wish I could bid farewell to child labour forever instead of bidding farewell to the poor boy! I know how painful it is to work at such a tender age since I was also a child labourer at one stage of my life. My brother didn't have to see those painful days since he was five years younger than me. I cannot forget the boy's crying "I will go back to my mother. Let me go." I ask myself, "Will the society let the boy go back to his mother?" What if he goes back to his mother? His mother will probably send him back to his "uncle" to be well trained in acquiring life skills to survive.

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PHOTO: MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN