# THE SPOTTED OWLET

**TEXT: CREATIVE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**

PHOTO: SCOTT TRAGESER PHOTOGRAPHER/NATURE STILLS

Look at this cute little fella. I struggle to conjure up and imagine in my mind a cuter bird than a small owl like this Spotted Owlet. But it is far more than just an adorable bundle of feathers. These birds play an integral role in the ecosystem and thusly also an integral role in the health of your own family.

No one likes rodents crawling around their kitchen. Why is that? Well we think they're "gross" but there's actually a biological reason for that hatred. They spread diseases. We've evolved with the understanding that certain things like bodily fluids can spread illnesses, spices are tasty because they hamper bacterial growth, and rodents shouldn't be in the house because their fleas and fecal matter can cause any number of unwanted issues for us. This could have been one of the biggest drawing factors for why we domesticated cats, to keep rodents and thus, illness out of the home. Well these owls actually do a better job at hunting rodents than your pet cat ever could. Since birds have exceptionally high metabolisms they require multiple successful hunts a night or they will starve. Sounds like a pretty good deal then to have an owl in your neighborhood and several less mice around every day, doesn't it?

The Spotted Owlet is the most common owl I've encountered in Bangladesh, though not the only by any means. Bangladesh is located very uniquely in the world, where the species assemblages from India meet the species from Southeast Asia. We are blessed in this way to have an incredible array of different species that we as a country should be truly proud of. Next time you are taking a walk in a park, look up and you may see one of these looking back at you from their daytime roost. Or go out at night with a flashlight and scan the trees for their eye shine sparkling back at you amongst the leaves and branches.

## ABOUT TOWN

### BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS' SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS 2016

**September 30 - October 01, 8 am - 10 pm**
**IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail**
**Hosted by: IFMSA Bangladesh**
*For more information, visit-*
*https://www.facebook.com/events/1187843367946397/*

### WORKSHOP ON GRAPHICS DESIGNING

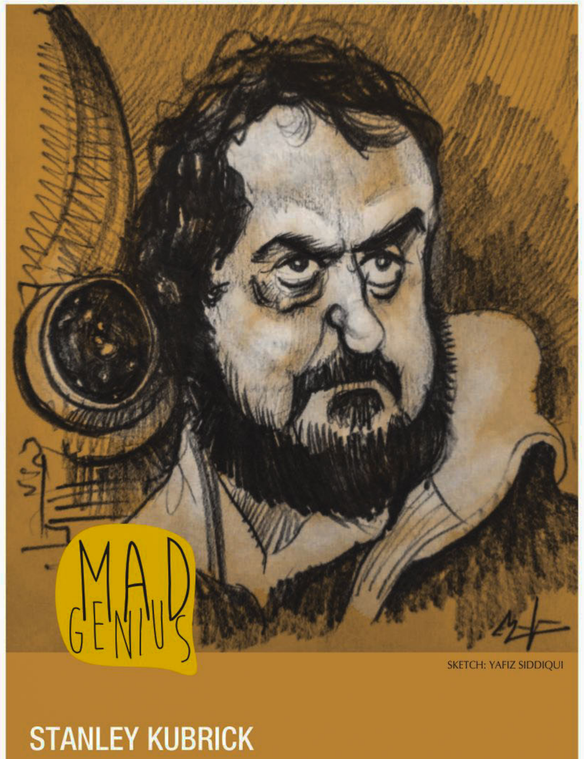
**September 30, 9 am - 5 pm**
**ECE Building, BUET, Dhaka**
**Hosted by: IEEE BUET Student Branch WIE Affinity Group**
*For Query, visit-*
*https://www.facebook.com/events/364236280574644/*

### BUP LITFEST 2016

**October 6-8, 3 - 10 pm**
**Bangladesh University of Professionals, Mirpur Cantonment**
**Hosted By-BUP Literature & Debating Club**
*For more information, visit-*
*https://www.facebook.com/events/1758475654425349/*








SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI

## STANLEY KUBRICK

**July 26, 1928 – March 7, 1999**

"If it can be written, or thought, it can be filmed," this is the mantra that Stanley Kubrick believed in. Kubrick was an American film director, screenwriter, producer, cinematographer, editor, and photographer. Kurbric is noted for his smart adaptation of novels or short stories that cover an extensive range of genres and appreciated for their realism, dark humor, unique cinematography, creative set designs and skilful use of music. Some of his popular films are Eyes Wide Shut, Full Metal Jacket, The Shining, A Clockwork Orange, Lolita and Spartacus.

**"Perhaps it sounds ridiculous, but the best thing that young filmmakers should do is to get hold of a camera and some film and make a movie of any kind at all.**

**If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered.**

**The screen is a magic medium. It has such power that it can retain interest as it conveys emotions and moods that no other art form can hope to tackle.**

**A filmmaker has almost the same freedom as a novelist has when he buys himself some paper."**

## BITTER REALITY OF POVERTY

As I was returning home, I got sad to see a special child, sitting on a wheel chair while a woman was pushing the wheelchair, and asking for alms. I was curious about the life of that child, so I enquired her that why she was not admitted to a school specialised for such children. Eventually I came to know that the woman who claimed to be her mother to the people, for sympathy, was not blood related to the child. Rather, she paid money to her parents, so that the woman could hire the special child for begging and earning. The woman also told me that every three months the child would receive government allowance of Tk 900, which is not enough. The child is denied proper medical treatment; she is not given a proper diet- as they want the girl's health to deteriorate further so that her parents could earn more. Later on, I met some other street children who shared the sad stories of their exploitation by their ''agents''. All of these children are exploited and are denied the basic rights of a citizen such as education, shelter, proper clothing, and food. I was hurt to know what I heard and witnessed and at the end of the day I realised how lucky we are to have good health and good lives.

*Esaba Ahnaf*
*Maple Leaf International School, Dhaka*

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

## YOU HAVE MY BOOK?

Whenever I lend a friend a book, I never get it back. I lent some books to a friend lately. When I finally got them back, to my surprise I found them badly marked. One came back covered in spices. I did not get two, because she told me, "they are somewhere. I am sure I will find them." Later I discovered one of my other friends reading this book of mine that I lent to someone else. Without my permission, my books had been moving among her friend circle, her family and extended family. It makes my blood boil when people don't respect the fact that I lend people books because I want them to return those books. My friends have started calling me "kipta", a miser, and they make me feel petty for asking for a book every time I see them. But I don't mind. Those are my books and I might want to read them again. Or just keep them with me forever. I don't mind people borrowing them, but please, make sure you return them.

*Shahida Hassan*
*Chittagong*