

# Trying to be aesthetic

MAYABEE ARANNYA

*Ever since I opened an Instagram account, I've been bombarded with posts from people that are much more artsy and themed than my posts can ever hope to be. I felt like it was suddenly a shortcoming to not be "aesthetic" so I went and did a little research on what you really need to do to achieve this.*

## BEING #GOALS

The first difference I noticed between me and these aesthetic humans is that they seem to do more in a day than I do in a month. This includes travelling, which means their feeds are filled with stunning pictures of #nature in exotic locations while I'm sitting at home sipping my tea with nothing to photograph. They also take pictures in the most dainty cafés with beautiful décor, while I'm too busy devouring my food to remember to take a photo.

## MAD EDITING SKILLS

Aesthetic people take the most simple picture and make it 10x tumblr with glitches, rainbow colours and filters which can easily be accomplished with only like



a hundred editing apps. If you edit with just the editing tools Instagram provides, you're a noob. Your feed also needs a theme, which does not mean you put the same filter on every photo (I wish) but

you somehow need to incorporate the same colours into every post. I guess that means everything they do is colour-coordinated, a talent the aesthetic gods have not bestowed upon me.

## BEING A LANA DEL REY FAN

If you don't think Lana Del Rey is a queen and the personification of the word aesthetic then you, my friend, can't sit with the aesthetic group. Girls strive to be like Lana as much as possible, trying to recreate her style and makeup. Her songs are their hymns and if she ever brought out a book, it would be their bible.

## BANGLA AESTHETICS

The sudden rise in popularity of artsy pictures with Bangla quotes from famous songs or poems or just things we say a lot means that you better brush up on your Bangla if you were one of those who took pride in not knowing your own Mother language properly. It is now cool to have Bangla captions or edit Bangla words into your own pictures, along with the tumblr edits. I hope this trend sticks around for a while because it seems to be the most interesting way to get Bangladeshi teenagers into Bangla literature or music.

## FLAT LAYS

We've all come across those perfect pictures of objects on a flat surface with pretty things laid around it. It seems like a simple picture that's pleasing to the eye but is it really that simple to take? Hell no. First of all, you need hands as steady as surgeons to take good photos from above. Second, you need an all white or marble or silky surface and then a whole bunch of cute things for decoration. Who has cute things just lying around at their place? Do people intentionally *go out and buy* things to match a specific product because if it is so, then that is where I draw my not-so-aesthetic line and give up.

*Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)*

# A day in the life of a skinny guy

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

Shafi thinks it's high time the world talked about the struggles that came saran wrapped with a skinny body. But to his sadness, everyone only talks about how they have gained so much weight and how the fat is hell bent in staying settled in the abdomen.

## 8:00 AM

Shafi rises from the deep well of an "oh-so-comfortable" sleep only to recall that he has to rush to school within 20 minutes or so. Hurriedly stuffing his mouth with slices of an apple, he makes his way to the elevator. The aunty next door happens to stumble across him while getting into the elevator. He flashes a well-mannered grin at her. One of her hands slowly caresses his cheeks with a mournful look on her face, and she blurts out, "Ahare baba ma bashay khabar dey na?"

The machine gun words plummet him down to the ground, but he manages to pull himself up and say, "Ami to onek khai

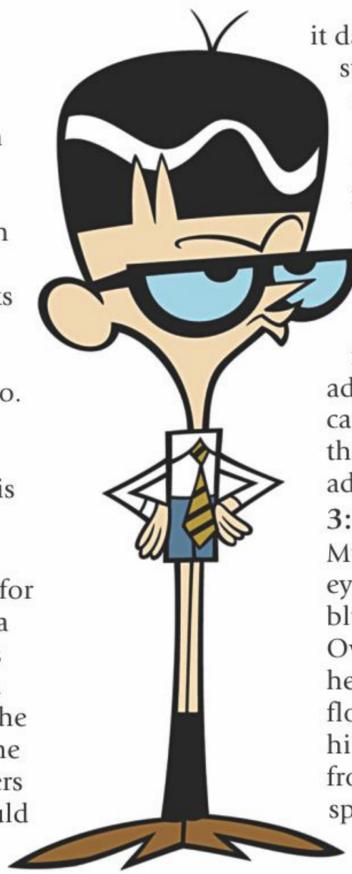
*kintu mota hoi na"*

## 11:00 AM

It's recess. Along with his friends, Shafi ventures out on the struggle to overcome the cobra line snaking from the tiny school canteen. His math teacher happens to catch a glimpse of him, and he points at Shafi's baggy shirt, and keeps on saying something which Shafi turns a deaf ear to. What else could he be saying other than the fact that his bony body is swimming in his clothes?

## 1:00 PM

To his delight, school is over for the day. He is now settled in a cozy spot at the most famous burger place in his town with his friends. Slowly relishing the mouth-watering majesty of the double patty giant, he wonders whether two more of this could help him gain weight. But



it dawns on him that his stomach isn't made to overdose on burgers unlike his friends who can devour two more. He asks his friends for some serious tips on gaining weight. As usual, followed by a series of laughter, they advise him to stay idle all day. His friends have been giving this advice to him for as long as he can remember. So he realises that resorting to his friends' advice is the worst for success.

## 3:00 PM

Mum brings a T-shirt with an eye-catching shade of cerulean blue that he cannot turn down. Overwhelmed with excitement, he tries it out only to find it floating like a balloon around him, the half sleeves dangling from his arms, the neckline splayed like a garland, and the arm-hole as big as a bat

cave. Seeing him sad with the bagginess of it, she assures him that he can use it two years later, and so has to take care of it until then. He laughs at the mediocrity of this event.

## 10:00 PM

Having done with the sumptuous dinner his father bought on the way home, he readies himself for the bed. Nestled comfortably, he lowers the brightness of his phone and googles the advantages of being skinny. Being agile, having fewer heart problems, dodging premature death, walking effortlessly, breathing easily are some of the benefits he finds. Being satisfied with his condition, he surfs Facebook for a meme or two as usual before sleeping. He stumbles across one that shows one should eat as much as possible because fat people are hard to abduct. Darkness falls over him. The screen light turns dim. So does the contented light of his face. He turns the phone off, pulls the blanket over, and goes to sleep — praying one day being skinny will draw loads of attention.