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This was an era when women felt most liberated, having just broken the confinements of the great suffrage. To signify their new found freedom, the arm-covering, floor-reaching garments were being discarded for more chic clothing. But it was also a confusing period of time.

Women began to adopt more boyish looks, with flattened chests in flappers and bob cut hairstyles. At the same time though, the hemlines became shorter and showing the legs became as much a political statement as a style one. The growth of surrealism in art also crept its way into fashion and the 1920s was perhaps the age when fashion, as a concept, really came to life.

Eventually, the simplistic style of the 1920s gangster era began to fade, along with the iconic tommy guns of the time.

As the Prohibition era began bringing bounties for the gangster and soon more rackets were taken up, the American Mafia, the defining Mafia so to speak, began to elevate. Drab suits were soon replaced by brand name designer silk suits, giving rise to the Scarface look. The Italians soon found themselves trading shots with Columbians, African Americans, Mexicans and so forth, breaking their hegemony. These diverse cultures brought much more colour to the gangster world.

However, testament to the fashion of 1920s, the look endures, olive oil sleek as ever before, with oiled down hair back-brushed and a nice Italian suit. Put on a fedora and you too will look more gangster than you ever dared imagine.

BY OSAMA RAHMAN

PHOTO: **SAYEED SIDDIQUI**

MODEL: **AZIM, NAHID, RAJ, MASHIAT, SUNEHRA**

WARDROBE MEN: **CATS EYE**

WARDROBE WOMEN: **KIMAYA**

STYLING: **AZRA MAHMOOD**

MAKE-UP: **FARZANA SHAKIL**



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