



## Breaking down stereotypes about the male modelling industry

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### AZIM UDDULA

Amongst the models in this issue, Azim Uddula serves as something of eminence grise, having reigned in industry as a star for several years. And Azim seems to agree with us, claiming that the industry matured as he did with time.

"I have been lucky in this profession and have been able to make friends early on," said a confident Azim.

"The secret is to basically mingle with the right crowd and gather knowledge whenever possible. I travelled to Milan and London on my own, to venture out possibilities in my field of profession. Maybe I couldn't do much over there, but they were definitely both learning experiences, which helped me be where I am today," said the supermodel.

Inquired about the future of the industry, he nudged a little, "Well, the industry is definitely doing well. Maybe not as much as we should have expected it to... but still, it's on track."

His firm eyebrows knit and it seemed he had more to say. "There's a lot of blame game in this industry but I do not believe in such hypocrisy, based on my plain understanding, a high-end talent hunting agency need to be present in our country. Best, if it is foreign-affiliated, then people will have a lot more confidence in that agency. The obligation is on us to initiate such a move, and maybe someday, we will," said Azim.

Meanwhile, he is exploring the possibilities of business with an international fashion designer, Grace Moon.

"Yes, I do have a clothing line of my own called AZ and it is getting popular by the day. I hope to make it global someday. If you ever ask me what my dreams are: there you go I have already said it," confided Azim, cheekily.

There is this common stereotype that defines models in general: mute and laid back in opinions. These men successfully proved these labels wrong with their rather expressive views and calculated living styles. The supermodels were keen to move on — to the next creative pursuit, the next big dream.

"Try shutting our voices — see what happens!" was an echoed response from the dream team.

**By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury**

**Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed**

**Models: Azim, Nahid, Raaz, Rabby**

**Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha**

**Wardrobe: Zurhem**

**Hair and Makeup: Shumon Rahat**

**Location: InterContinental Dhaka**