

Military Hospital, Dhaka (CMH) for the past 20 years, practising his skills at Anaesthetics.

ICHRI is the only centre in Bangladesh where all the staff is local. There once used to be a conception that if one was to do a bypass surgery, one had to go abroad for good treatment but now, that has changed. "Through our services we are earning a good reputation and giving confidence to the people of this country," says Siraj.

It is hard to believe that Khair Hossain, a middle-aged businessman sitting serenely in the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit has just undergone open heart surgery the previous morning. "I was taken to the operating room at 7:30 am and I woke up at 4:00 pm the same day", says Hossain, his chest bearing bandages from his operation. The main operation was probably two to three hours long but anaesthesia, recovery, etc. took up more

when it comes to open heart surgery because we have some of the best surgeons in the country," he adds.

Md. Mashequr Rahman Khan, Manager Administration, is a man who is in charge of all sorts of supervision. "We have given the security to Group 4 and Property Care Services (PCS) services are doing all the cleaning," says Mashequr. "Our canteen has a Food Quality Control Committee. The individual patients have their own diets, provided by the nutritionists and the canteen cooks the food to cater to such diets. A representative from the Food Quality Control Committee is always present before each meal to make sure that the food's quality is of proper standards," he says.

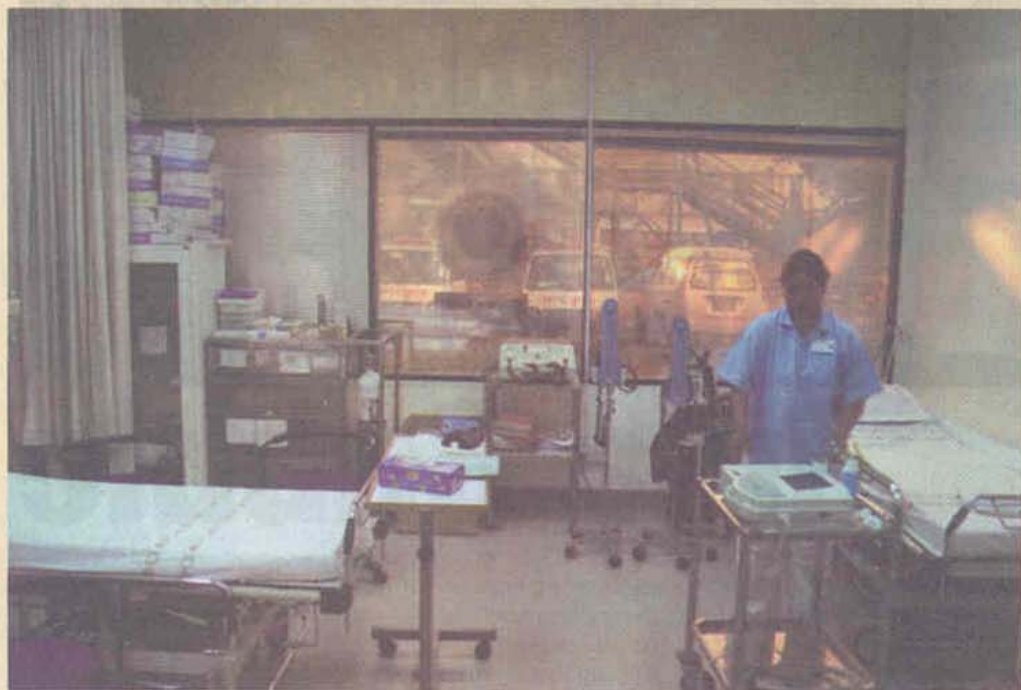
Dr. Tamzeed Ahmed, Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Cardiovascular Medicine and Interventional Cardiology, is straightforward. "We are a non-government organisation and it is our duty to

inform the patients the things we can offer the things we can't. We simply give our honest opinion," says Ahmed. ICHRI is also trying to improve its discharge system so that the patients who are leaving are not facing any problems and those clients on the waiting lists can be tended to.

In the long-run the hospital will also be a training institute. "Eventually, we plan to officially provide training, though, we are unofficially giving very good training right now," says Ahmed. ICHRI also plans to venture into the field of research on the cardiac side, for example preventive cardiology. "In the long-run, we

will be aiming for preventive strategies in the cardiac field," concludes Ahmed.

Early results are encouraging and validate that an institute such as the Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute can provide affordable surgical care in a clean and safe environment. "If there are too many patients, then they will have to go into the waiting list", said Jalal Uddin. So far the main attraction of the Centre is that doctors are honest with the patient; a basic requirement expected from any standard hospital but a rarity in most medical centres of the country.



The Emergency at ICHRI is fully equipped to tend to all forms of heart related problems.

time. "I have been told to stay on at the hospital for at least one week before being discharged. The same day of my operation, I was given afternoon tea and a light meal," Hossain states, the pain from the operation still bearing heavy on him. "I don't remember most of the things but I feel much better now. Today, I had breakfast and lunch on my own," says Hossain.

"We start to feed the patients after just three to four hours of certain operations. That is something really wonderful as it is hard to imagine that the same patient had just had a heart operation," states Abdur Rouf, the ICU In-Charge. "There is really nothing to worry about