



Dr Rahman and his team of Cardiac Surgeons.

machine the cells get damaged plus air might get into it and there is possibility of a blood clot. It is also not possible to do an open-heart surgery on a weak heart. Another trauma that blockage patients and their relatives have to go through is looking for blood donors, especially if the patient has a negative blood group. In beating heart surgery it is unnecessary for extra blood save for some exceptions.

Rahman also uses the arterial method for bypass surgeries, which is an innovation in itself. The mammary artery that is available in the heart as a spare artery is used to replace the coronary artery. When this artery is used a second bypass is usually not needed. "It works like a vaccine", says Rahman, "and prevents fur-

*"In terms of technology we are very advanced and if we dedicate ourselves to this work we can do much better. An example of this advancement is in cardiac surgery,"*

*-Dr Rahman*

ther cholesterol from developing". Most operations involve taking a vein from the leg, which can cause problems for diabetic patients; it takes time for the wounds (in the leg) to heal. The leg also remains bloated for a long time. Veins work under low pressure but arteries are used to high pressure so they match perfectly with the flow. It also matches in thickness and diameter. A long incision, around 3 to 4 inches long, is needed in the leg. This type of surgery is done in the US and Japan and some centres in Europe. And only about 1 or 2 surgeons in Bombay are capable of carrying out this procedure. Bangkok and Singapore, which are the top destinations for well-off families for heart surgery still use the conventional method of using veins from