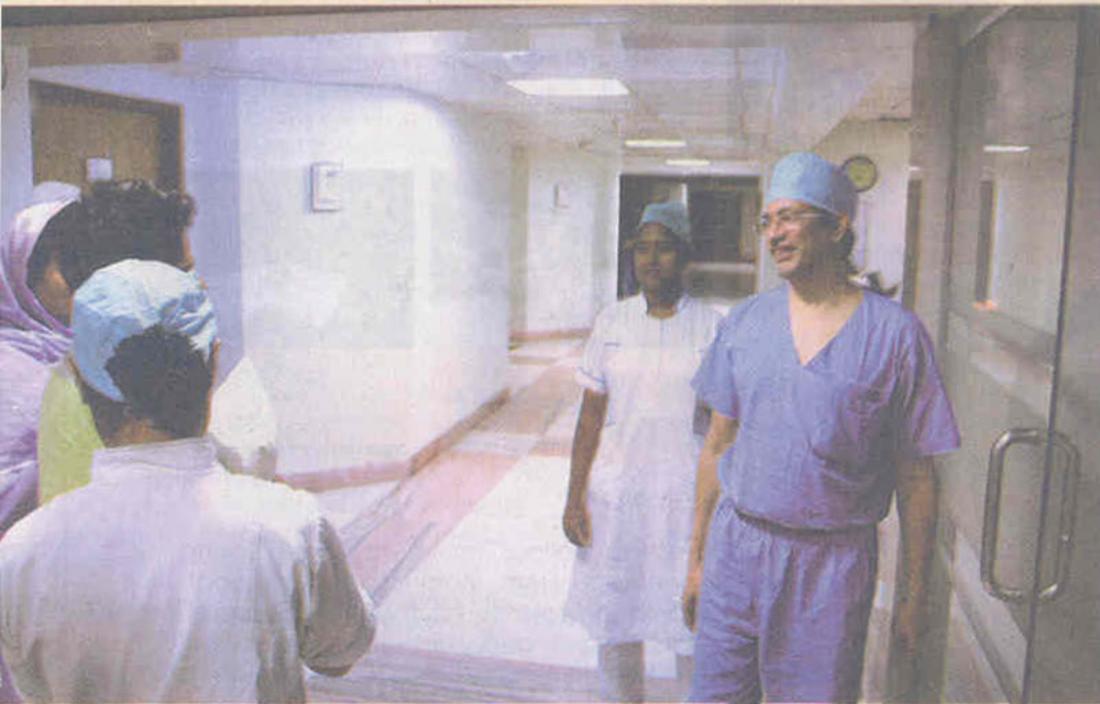


did not have a very clear conception about bypass surgery."

On July 3, this year, Dr Rahman is set to receive a big honour for himself and his country. He will be presented the Dr Bidhan Chandra Rai Award for contributing to and modernising cardiac surgery in Bangladesh and bringing back confidence in the profession. He has trained doctors and nurses in both Shikder Medical College and Labaid and they are doing well in their respective places. Dr Rahman also places great emphasis on hygiene, which, he sadly expresses, is completely overlooked in government hospitals and even many private hospitals too. "The first thing a patient must be provided with when he gets admitted is a fresh hospital gown. People still don't realise that all kinds of illnesses can be brought inside the hospital through a patient's garments," says Dr Rahman, "A doctor also has to make sure that the

he might be a heart patient. But diabetes itself is a major contributory factor towards arterial blockages. "My husband has been suffering unnecessarily for the last four months ever since he started having chest pains," says Asgar's wife. Even when he had repeatedly complained about getting weak and having chest pains his doctor at BIRDEM never referred him to a cardiologist. They carried out numerous tests at BIRDEM but his doctor never informed him about the link between diabetes and heart disease. Later when his family charged him about his negligence he apologised, but the damage had already been done. Following that he was taken to Suhrawardy Hospital where a doctor there referred him to Dr. Lutfur Rahman. Asgar's family members praised the efforts of his team for successfully completing the operation. "Doctors like him (Dr. Lutfur Rahman) make us proud and it is because of him that my husband is getting better", says Asgar's wife.

M u h a m m a d Wahid Murad is nearly 40 years old and started having chest pains about six months ago. A politician by profession he comes from Bogura and is strongly involved with the cultural sector of that area. "I was in a procession when I felt pain shooting through my heart. I tried to ignore it but after going for another 20 yards I just could not move any further," says Murad, "the family doctor laughed it off telling me not to worry too much and prescribed drugs for acidity." Later he



It is very important for nurses to maintain hygiene to avoid postoperative infections.

nurses who look after the patients are clean. It's not enough to have a clean toilet for patients, the nurses toilets must also be clean and must always have sufficient supplies. Most postoperative infections are spread because those attending the patients are not particular about maintaining good hygiene."

60-year-old Professor Mohammad Ali Asgar has been living with diabetes for the last 20 years. His self-discipline has kept it under control for this long and it's difficult to tell from his tall, lean appearance that

came to Dhaka and did an ETT (Exercise Tolerance Test) and an Angiogram. "When I found out about the blockages I was completely decided on leaving for Bangkok to do the bypass," he says, "when my sister, who lives in Dhaka, showed me a report on Dr. Lutfur Rahman's method. I instantly made up my mind to abandon my plans for going abroad and do the surgery here. And look at me now," says a smiling Murad, just a week after his surgery, "if I wasn't wearing this hospital gown you would never know I had undergone a bypass surgery." ■