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Med team from Iraq at Apollo

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AHMEDABAD: A team of over 20 doctors and nurses from Iraq is on a 45-day training session in cardiac surgery at Apollo Hospital. Led by cardiac surgeon Dr Akeel Al Mendel from Nassirihia Cardiac Centre, Iraq, they have already witnessed four surgeries.

Dr Mendel is keen to learn coronary artery or bypass surgery. He was very impressed with the privatisation of hospitals when hospitals in Iraq are still controlled by the government.

An anaesthetist Dr Jabbar A Wajed has come back to his country after 22 years. He says that during Saddam's rule, many doctors left the country. There are only three cardiac hospitals in the capital city of Iraq and now government plans to start hospitals that will look after cardiac treatment in small towns.

Apollo Hospital authorities said Iraqi doctors are here to get extensive training as they are all set to open a state-of-the-heart cardiology hospital in Al Nazariya near Basra in Iraq.

"We have organized a special prayer room for them to offer namaz. Since they are exempt from fasting for ramzan as they are travelling, we have still made arrangements for fruits, dates and dry fruits to be offered to them," said senior official of Apollo Dr Manjul Joshipura.