



Maj. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani
MBBS, FRCS, FCPS

“Kiani Kahani” documents many important events in Pakistan’s medical and political history

Maj. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani HI (M), SI, T Bt,

Those who are honest, sincere and hardworking are blessed by God Almighty and humble family background does not hinder their progress and prosperity

“Kiani Kahani” is an autobiography by Maj.Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani HI (M), SI, T Bt, one of the pioneer cardiac surgeons of Pakistan. The book contains 44 chapters with numerous small sub-chapters which makes it easy to read. The book covers a wide range of topics from his personal and family life to early education in Abbottabad, professional education at King Edward Medial College, commission in Pakistan Army, personal observation of breakup of Pakistan in 1971, life in Prisoners of War Camps in India, higher postgraduate training in UK, service at Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology from where he eventually retired as Commandant, numerous visits overseas, development of AFIC, the tragic accident in Saudi Arabia after performing Hajj, the death of General Asif Nawaz Janjua in which an effort was made to implicate Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, retirement of Gen. Zulfikar and working under new commandant Gen. Yousuf, besides visits to beautiful scenic valleys in Northern areas. He has also penned down his observations about various Prime Ministers of Pakistan starting from Liaquat Ali Khan to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. General Ziaul Hogue’s Martial Law, the period of Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif, dismissal of General Musharraf

and his counter coup and General Musharraf's resignation from President ship. He has also written about the advantages of joint family system, one's rights and responsibilities, how to live in difficult times besides his association with Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA) and some of his friends in medical profession and in the field of cardiac surgery. Hence it is indeed a rich treasure of information which the readers will enjoy. For the benefit of the readers, let me summarize some of the incidents, events covered in this autobiography.

Appreciation by colleagues: "Writing about his personal observations about Maj. Gen. Masud ur Rehman Kiani, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Ashraf Khan who also retired as Commandant of AFIC says that "I first met him in 1970 which turned into friendship which remains so till today in the shape of being partners in Heart International Hospital. This friendship has turned into permanent love for each other. One can learn a lot from his life history through this autobiography, in fact after reading this book I have become much closer to him and came to know much more about him. He is fond of gardening, light classical music. This autobiography will keep him alive for ever."

The book also contains a poem by Lt-Gen. Azhar Rashid who has paid rich tributes to his Mentor Maj. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani. His citation which he read at the Association of Surgeons of Pakistan in 2005 when Gen. Kiani was presented Life Time Achievement Award is also included in the book. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani was born on April 4th 1943, in Abbottabad, did MBBS from King Edward Medical College in 1965, MCPS in 1971, FCPS Part-I and II in 1974 soon after return from POW Camps from India, joined AFIC and retired as its Commandant. He has served as President of Pakistan Cardiac Society, President of Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery of Pakistan, President Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA), Chairman Board of Management Rawalpindi Medical College and Allied Hospitals.

One thing which is reflected in abundance in this book is the fact that if one is honest, sincere and hardworking, has blessings of his parents, friends and well-wishers, one can always

succeed and no power on earth can stop him from progress and prosperity. God Almighty, Maj. Gen. Musud Ur Rehman Kiani writes has blessed human beings with too many qualities and it was up to them to discover this talent and make use of it to find their destination. Sincerity in efforts also makes the most difficult things easy.

Indo-Pakistan War of 1965

The book starts with the war in 1965 when he was posted at Civil Hospital Sialkot in Surgical Ward and narrowly escaped fire from the enemy machinegun. He served as House Officer with Prof. Sardar Ali Sheikh where they managed a large number of injured due to enemy firing which were brought to the Mayo Hospital emergency. He was then posted at Civil Hospital Sialkot along with other staff that was posted there by Secretary Health Prof. M.H.Toosy. On way to Sialkot, Gen. Kiani says, our Karwan which also included Army Tanks and soldiers were garlanded and people saw us off with lot of love and affection. On reaching DHQ Hospital Sialkot, we saw about forty seriously injured patients as a result of Bomb dropped by Indians in a densely populated area in the city in which many people also lost their lives. I had served with Prof. Rustam Nabi Prof. of Anesthesia just for a day and had learnt a little bit how to give anesthesia which helped me a lot to give anesthesia to these forty seriously injured patients who were operated upon by our team headed by Dr. Iqbal Ghulam Mohammad. Once we had managed all these patients some of whom were shifted to Lahore, some of us decided not to return to Lahore and offer our services at CMH Sialkot. We served there for almost a month and did many lifesaving surgeries. It was here that I first met Brig. Malik Shaukat Hassan who was Director of Surgery and had come to visit the hospital. He won our hearts due to his professional attitude and affectionate behaviour. It was in those days that I received offer to Join Pakistan Army but I was advised to first complete my House Job which I did and my first pay was Rs. 95/-

Early Education: Gen. Kiani recalls his early education and days spent in Abbottabad. Our Professor of chemistry Mirza Afzal

was also a poet who organized an All Pakistan Musharia wherein Faiz Ahmad Faiz was invited as a Chief Guest for which he had to leave his job and join some factory as a Chief Chemist since Faiz Ahmad Faiz was not in good books of the Government in those days. Abbottabad city is named after Major Abbot who was an intelligent, adventurous and competent army officer. He served the people of Hazara with devotion and dedication for which he was immensely loved by the people. It was he who established the cantonment here in the plains of Rush and named it Abbottabad.

At King Edward Medical College: “After doing FSc, I got admission letter from King Edward Medical College as in those days admission were on merit on West Pakistan basis. I did get admission but it became extremely difficult for my father and brothers to support my medical education. Bursar of Cadet College Hassan Abdal Syed Imam Ali helped me financially and also provided me much needed guidance. The six years spent at King Edward from 1961-66 were the golden period in my life despite financial problems. My parents and brothers did look after my financial needs so that I could become a doctor. There used to be ninety boys and ten girls in the class at King Edward. The most talented students from all over West Pakistan used to get admission here at King Edward. College atmosphere, Gen. Kiani recalls was very nice. Our teachers were very intelligent and we used to respect them a lot. There used to be strikes and demonstrations but eventually everything got settled through negotiations but no one could ever dare to show any disrespect to the teachers. However, now the situation has changed a lot. When we got admission, the Hundred Years celebrations of King Edward had started which went on for three months. General Ayub Khan was the chief guest in the inaugural session held in the famous Patiala Block of Library Hall. United Christian Hospital’s Dr. Boss was demonstrating his Heart Lung Machine in the Exhibition held in Anatomy Hall and Sports Ground which was quite fascinating for me. Few years later the same Dr. Boss did the first open heart surgery in Pakistan at Lahore. At that time I never thought that ten years later I will also be a member of the

surgical team headed by Col. Ali Masood Akram who will do the first open heart surgery. I spent most of my time in Broom Hostel of King Edward Medical College. He recalls that in Basent Days, it was considered a great fun and competence to write love messages on Kites, drive them on the roof tops of hostel and then drop them in Hall Road Hostel of Fatima Jinnah Medical College. While working at Lady Willington Hospital located adjacent to place known as “*Shahi Mohalla*”, we often used to visit that place where the medical students were given due respect. A few students would sometime enter the singing places where they used to be served Pan and in return the students also used to put a rupee on the plate. That was all and a great fun for the students.

Every year there used to be an Indo Pakistan Musharia and other literary sittings and I was always keen to attend them and listen to famous poets. Justice Mohammad Rustam Kiani also used to be invited every year by his well-wishers to speak in the University Hall. He was an institution in himself. He would make people laugh in one sentence, force them to think in the second sentence and then make them weep in the next which was his art in which he had excelled. In his speeches he even never spared the Governor of West Pakistan Malik Ameer Mohammad Khan of Kalabagh who was known as a terror and President Ayub Khan. Justice Kiani also used to speak in Abbottabad every year during summer vacations and I always made it a point to attend those meetings.

Our talented professors at King Edward in those days included Prof. of Anatomy Dr. Afzal, Prof. of Pharmacology Dr. Abdul Hameed while the name of Pathology Professor was also Hameed and they were all very popular among students and strict in discipline. Prof. Ziaullah was Prof. of Medicine who was a good teacher and also used to deal with students in Lahori style. Prof. Akhtar Khan was competent but reserve and strict disciplinarian. He was known as Dracula because of his front teeth. Prof. Kh. Saadiq Hussain was known to punish the students in a humorous way but used to teach with devotion. Prof. Ameeruddin was also

very strict but mild in speech and students sitting in the last row could also listen to him without the use of mike. During exam he used to offer glass of *Rooh Afza* or *Lassi* to every student. Prof. Riaz-e-Qadeer was a competent surgeon who was also known for his Punjabi Style. He refused Governor West Pakistan Malik Ameer Mohammad Khan of Kalabagh to admit student without merit and resigned from Principal ship. Prof. Sardar Ali Sheikh was another great surgeon and it was his teaching and training that I managed to pass FRCS examination. I had the privilege to work with him and learn surgery from him. Prof. Alvi Prof. of ophthalmology was another competent teacher who used to ask question from his last lecture and those students who failed to answer him often used to get appropriate dressing. Many students were keen to get his verbal punishment so that he recognized them. During the exam, he often used to say, “Go come next time, I never saw you in my class”. Prof. of ENT was also a good teacher but one had to keep the book authored by him to get admission to his class. He was also known to be very miser and greedy. He often used to organize extra classes before the examination. Prof. Ghulam Bheek was a man of few words, was affectionate but competent in his subject. Prof. Yousuf the other Professor of Gynecology was a heavy and tall personality and one wonders how he could adjust him in a small car. None of our professors used to be late in their class or in the Out Patients. Every professor used to be in the class room at 7.30 AM. Lecture was followed by Ward Round and then teaching in the OPD. Most of the professor used to do private practice which was allowed in those days only at the residence and often used to take night rounds. This is the law even these days but when the seniors do not obey the laws, how one can imagine the juniors to follow these rules.

Some of our class fellows were very interesting characters and were known with their nickname like Rashid Lota, Latif Chitta, Bashir Haddi, Hakeem Phakki, Jawaid Mota, Masood Ghian Singh, Kabootari, Nak Charrhi, Bam Bam, Khalil Fakhta, Abdullah Deewana, Jameel or Federal Castro as his face had lot of resemblance with Federal Castro of Cuba. One of our students

was also known as Maulvi Satan who is a very dear friend and we respect him a lot even today. He was always dressed in Achkan and Cap which has become his trade mark. He would entertain us with civilized jokes and frighten us by asking difficult questions. Today he is an eminent cardiologist of Pakistan and has kept up his style all these years. Whenever he speaks at a meeting, he sends everyone laughing by narrating some jokes or incidents, anecdotes. Once attending an international cardiology conference in United States, an American saw him coming out of Female restrooms and pointed towards the Female Symbol at the entrance. At this, he remarked that he thought it was perhaps Achkan or Sheerwani. His name is Prof. Abdus Samad. Another our class fellow Asim Nana is a world renowned rheumatologist. Late Nisar Tareen was a handsome, practical Muslim and noted poet with a melody voice. The Army Medical Corp Anthem written by him is sung even today. He was Col. in the army and died of heart attack at young age.

I graduated from King Edward in 1965 with good marks and after house job my first job was at Samli Sanatorium for which I was selected by Dr. M.H.Toosy West Pakistan Health Secretary. All the vacant posts in the province were displayed on a revolving board and all the selections were made in a day. Names of three of us were put on the board of Samli Sanatorium and we were also issued the appointment letters immediately. Dr. Toosy was a very good administrator and strategist. It shows that if the top boss is aware of everything, is able, sincere and devoted, one man show is still the best. Even if today the heads of medical institutions are allowed to work freely and independently and they are also held accountable, the performance of these institutions can be improved provided the elected representatives do not interfere and institution heads are appointed on merit.

After taking care of the clerks of AGPR, I joined Samli Sanatorium in West Pakistan Health Services in Grade-II at a monthly pay of Rs. 300/-(three hundred only). While working here, our school friend Khawaja Altaf Hussain came to see me along with his mother and sister without any prior intimation.

Few days later when I went to Abbottabad I came to know that they had come to see me and had decided about my engagement with one of their relatives. My friend Dr. Mirza was very keen to join Army; he had applied for it soon after house job. He got two Forms from GHQ and also invited me to go with him and appear in interview in Rawalpindi. As the luck would have it, he got unfit because of his eye glasses and I was selected though even till then I had no desire of joining the army. When I went back to Samli Sanatorium, another doctor was sitting on my seat who welcomed me with a smile and showed me his posting orders and my transfer to a far off place. At this I decided to join army, resigned from service forfeiting even one month's salary and went home to Abbottabad. My family was first surprised to see me but later got happy as they wanted to see me in army uniform.

Few days later I was posted at Lt. in Medical Inspection Room in CMH Murree and I was welcoming Surgeon General Pakistan Army General S. A. Mian who was visiting CMH Murree. I was interested in surgery and learnt it's basic from Major Mushtaq who later retired as Brig. from CMH Rawalpindi. We were sent to AMC Centre Abbottabad and later to Armed Forces Postgraduate Medical College Rawalpindi to learn certain things about army service. Pure army training in Abbottabad was also interesting where qualified doctors are trained to kill and destroy everything. I personally feel that Army doctors should be taught requirements and rules of Army but when attempt are made to make them real army personnel, they fail to do justice to Army as well as their profession of Medicine.

Military Training for Doctors

He recalls the dialogue with the Drill Instructor Hawaldar Sahib who said "*Assay Naheen chalay Gaa. Paoon Zameen par zor say marna Hoga*". Our senior trainee officer who was an MRCP in Psychiatry and had joined army said, "Sir if the brain got so many jolts so frequently, it will be damaged". The drill instructor retorted in an aggressive tone "**We do not need brains in army. When you will become senior officers, by then**

your brain will start working but now you have to do what you are told". During shooting practice, Subedar Sahib said, *"Take the rifle, look at the target, make him sit in your heart and then shoot"*. Our psychiatrist friend again remarked "Do not make our target sit in the heart, we will start loving him, then how we will kill it." Subedar Sahib responded *"While in army you have to kill someone first making him sit in the heart. Keep your brain safe, you will need it later on."*

Like all others Maj. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani is also full of praise for the Waaly of Swat as the roads in Swat were much better in 1968-69 as compared to the present one. In those days Swat Valley had Sharia Courts and people used to get justice immediately. People of the area were supposed to look after the government buildings and other civic facilities. In case of any damage, collective fine used to be charged from the people of the area. Swat was a real welfare state in those days. After the amalgamation of Swat into Pakistan, the things have gone worse. I should have been promoted as Capitan after six months service because after house job, as per army rules, six months seniority was available. However since I had refused to buy insurance policy from someone who was now posted in Military Secretary Branch, he had kept my file. It was after one and a half year while serving at Lahore that someone thought of and I was promoted as Capitan. After completing surgical training and training for over a year in CMH, I was posted with Col.Ali Masood Akram at Military Hospital for three months. It was in March 1970 that Col.Ali Masood Akram and his team, of which I was a part, did first open heart operation. Later I also worked with Lt.Gen.Mahmud Ul Hassan who is an accomplished surgeon, a noted poet and an affectionate teacher. It was his guidance that I made good progress and learnt a lot from him. I also learnt a lot from General Malik Shaukat Hassan who was also a great surgeon. Dr.Sirajul Jinnat went to Bangladesh and became Major General and Director of Surgery. When I visited Bangladesh with a cardiac surgery team in 1992, he was our host, showed lot of affection and we also recalled the good old times some of which brought tears to our eyes.

I learnt a lot about surgery first at Mayo Hospital Lahore, later at Military Hospital and CMH Rawalpindi. Five eminent personalities who had contributed a great deal in making me a competent cardiac surgeon include Prof. Sardar Ali Sheikh, General Malik Shaukat Hassan, General Ali Masood Akram, General Mahmud Ul Hassan, and the world renowned cardiac surgeon Majdi Yakoob. They all were the best surgeons and teachers of their time.

East Paksitan Crisis

The most painful chapter in the autobiography is his description how he saw Pakistan being disintegrated. Despite best efforts I could not stop tears flowing in my eyes while I was going through these details but still the more painful is the fact that we have not learnt any lesson from those tragic events of 1971 and keep on making the same mistakes and experiments. Gen. Kiani writes that as soon as I reached Bahawalpur after passing MCPS examination, Col. Rahmat Ali welcomed and congratulated me and also handed me a letter which was regarding my posting in East Pakistan and immediate departure. I reached East Pakistan via Karachi and then Colombo in September 1971 since over flights over India was banned in those days. One of my cousins Capitan Raja Mohammad Ayub received me at the Airport. He had joined East Bengal Regiment and his unit had 90% Bengalis. He was living with his eight daughters and wife in the same unit in family quarters. The unit was located at a few miles from Dhaka. One day Commanding Officer who was a Bengali arranged "*Barra Khana*". Soon after the dinner all the Bengali offices and JCOs left except officers from West Pakistan. Suddenly firing started and Raja Sahib was the only one who survived as all others were killed. He ran towards the family quarters, his Bengali Batman requested him not to go there as firing was heard from there as well. Everything is finished there and you should run away and save your life, his batman stated. Somehow Raja Sahib reached his Headquarter and told the whole story. A team reached the scene and what they saw cannot be described. They all wept, only one young Capitan had survived

who was hiding himself behind a tree. The whole unit had fled with all the vehicles and ammunition. We straight went to the graveyard, offered prayers at the graves of his eight daughters and wife. Why it all happened, had we done something wrong that we deserved all that? After some time Raja Sahib was sent to West Pakistan.

We were taken to the Eastern Command of Medical Battalion headed by Col.Faheem Ahmad Khan who later retired as Lt. General and Surgeon General of Pakistan Army. Next day I was sent to Khulna in a small plane where my Field Ambulance had mobile surgical unit. On reaching there I came to know that my unit had already gone to Memonsingh a few days ago. I spent a few days in the local CMH and heard horrifying tales of excesses committed by Mukti Bahni and the Pakistan Army. Eventually I did manage to join my unit. Just imagine that if the people sitting in the Headquarters do not know the location of their units, where they are working, the eventual outcome of this conflict is not difficult to understand. By now Pakistan Army had controlled the rebellion of Mukti Bahni and Bengali units. I managed to get some much needed instruments from the teaching hospital affiliated with the medical college and managed to do quite a few surgical operations. During the same days Prof. M.A.H.Siddiqui one of the founder Fellows of CPSP who was also my examiner in MCPS died in Karachi. He was very much impressed with my examination and opined that I should attempt FCPS. A special reference was held in honour of Prof. M.A.H.Siddiqui in Memonsingh Medical College auditorium. Speakers paid him rich tributes. Our friend Afzal Ahmad Sheikh was a very jolly fellow in the medical college who often used to say “No time is fixed for Death and the beloved, God knows they can come any time. Hence one should always be prepared”. Something similar happened with our friend Capitan Mahmood. He fell in love with a girl in a family in Memonsingh. Despite requests by many friends, he got engaged. Later the circumstances changed dramatically. We left the city. After two years we came to know that the Sylhet family had gone to USA and then Capitan Mahmood and his fiancée got married

finding new life partners, he in Pakistan and she in United States and Mahmood eventually started living happily and the same is expected on the other side.

War was going on. We established a ten bed ward in a make shift dispensary. Vehicle of one of the officers was damaged driving over an anti-Tank mine, driver died instantly and the officer was seriously injured. I had just placed the injured officer on the table that he passed away. I could see smile on his face and light in his eyes. He was the same officer with whom we used to gossip late night every day. Ringworms were endemic in East Bengal and most of our officers were affected with this which affects the lower parts of the body. The number of seriously injured were increasing day by day. Many a times I had to operate in the light of Oil Lamp. Most of them were victims of Mukti Bahni. Once our hospital came under fire. The day of death is fixed and when one thinks about this, one's conviction increases. It is said, on some bullets it is written "To Whom it may Concern. One should be afraid of this".

Surrender in East Pakistan

During the last days of army action in East Bengal things were becoming very difficult. We were operating on injured but their departure to Dhaka had stopped. However, we always got good news on Radio from West Pakistan as well as from Dhaka. One evening we heard the speech of the then Military dictator General Yahya Khan which was totally contrary to ground realities in East Bengal and the next day we heard that our forces have surrendered. It was just like a bomb exploding in our head. Some people from our Brigade came and handed over all the ammunition to the enemy forces. We all put our caps to fire and wept aloud. At the same time someone came and said the patient is ready on the operation table, hence forgetting everything, I went to operate upon him and tried to forget what had happened. There were many other patients with us waiting for surgery.

The first enemy doctor from Indian Army who came to us was Col. Moorty. He had a victorious voice but did not misbehave with

us. He said that they fought this war with years of planning and fought well. Your destruction was imminent in this plan. Many months ago some of our soldiers had entered in East Pakistan and he himself wearing *Dhoti* had entered East Bengal and had finalized everything for medical mission. As promised Col. Moorty sent three Helicopters the next day and all our injured patients were sent to India through Air Ambulance. Now we were all Prisoners of War and Indian soldiers used to humiliate us daily through different ways. We were completely broken. In a few days we were shifted to Dhaka in army vehicles where one young Sikh Army officer used to humiliate us by ordering us to stand throughout the night. We were just helpless and could not do anything except weeping.

Life in POW Camps in India: During the last days of December 1971 we were shifted to different camps in India through non-army vehicles. Driver of our vehicle who was perhaps Muslim saluted us escaping the attention of the guard and we saw tears in his eyes. I was lucky that members of my OT team were all with me. I had few books hence started preparing for FCPS-1. I handed over one book each to all other colleagues and asked them to study. Later I was shifted to a camp in Allahabad in a POW Camp Hospital where there were sixteen doctors working under the command of Col. Wazeer Ali Khan who had full Field Ambulance. Here we learnt that this POW camp was planned many years ago. Even we too were intentionally or unintentionally working for the breakup of Pakistan for the last many decades. These are facts which cannot be denied. Actors like General Yahya Khan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Sheikh Mujeeb-ur-Rehman were characters who entered the game much later.

In the POW camps with the help of one of our doctors, a rescue tunnel from the officer's camp had almost been completed but some of our own people informed the Indians at which the officers and Dr. Capitan Mohammad Ali had to suffer a lot. The treatment which they received from the Sikh soldiers cannot be described. Even supply of drinking water was stopped for two days. When one of the Sikh soldiers was requested, he refused

saying you dig a tunnel to escape, you do not deserve water. However, one of our men went to Sardarjee and said, mud floor is very uncomfortable and if you permit, can I take a bucket of water to smoothen it. Sardarjee said “Yes you can take water for that purpose but should not drink”. I was the last doctor who left this camp with injured patients on our journey to Pakistan. As soon as we came near the Wagha border, we heard voices of *Naarae Takbeer Allaho Akbar* from the train. On reaching Pakistan each and every POW was kissing the motherland. We had a wonderful reception at Wagha Border and after completing formalities, we got one month’s leave. My family was informed of my return date by Col.Wazeer Ali Khan who later told me in Karachi when I went there to appear in FCPS-I Exam that he had prepared the list of doctors return. He told me that my name was kept last as I was the most stable person in the lot. During our stay in POW camps the humiliating attitude of Sikhs was most painful.

I was engaged in 1968 but later I became a POW. My fiancé had a nervous breakdown which was triggered by circumstances and anxiety about future. She was treated by General Shoaib Consultant Psychiatrist and luckily she fully recovered. Within fifteen days of my return from India, I got married. Gen. Kiani has also described the marriage ceremony which was solemnized in a typical Hindko style. Later after one month’s debriefing, he was posted as Surgical Specialist in Abbottabad.

During 1974, I passed my FCPS-II, also passed exam to be promoted as Major and became a classified specialist. During 1974-75, I served in CMH Campbelpur which is now known as Attock. On May 26th 1975, God Almighty blessed us with a baby boy who was named as Suhaib Ahmad Masood Kiani.

Training in UK: Pakistan Army sent me for FRCS training to UK for two years. I worked in general surgery and later in cardiac surgery units. I was taken to Hairfield Hospital to meet Chest Surgeon John Jackson by Col.Zulfiqar Ali Khan. He requested John to give his job to me as I was much younger and can do what he cannot. At this Dr. John asked “Dr.Ali Khan, are

you running this hospital or me”. Col.Zulfiqar never gave up, insisted and eventually convinced Dr. John. However, he said, you need to see Dr. Majdi Yakoob an Egyptian Cardiac Surgeon and if he agrees, he will have no objection. When we reached the OT, Majdi Yakoob was washing hands after operation. Col. Zulfikar again started narrating the story of need of a cardiac surgeon in Pakistan, progress of cardiac surgery as a specialty and so on. Majdi Yakoob listened patiently and when he was going in the OT again to operate said, “Dr. Masud Kiani, do you know how to scrub?” I replied “Yes Sir”. Then come on, he said and that is how I swapped my job with Col.Zulfiqar Ali Khan very easily. I got training in cardiac surgery with Dr. Majdi Yakoob. I used to finish my ward duties quickly and spent most of my time in the Operation Theater. It was a God sent opportunity as I got comprehensive training in cardiac surgery in a very short period.

During my last days in London, Zain Zia daughter of General Ziaul Haque was taken to London for PDA operation. Since blood pressure of her lungs was very high many surgeons had refused to operate upon her. She was suffering from Severe Pulmonary Hypertension-Balanced Shunt. On a request from Col.Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Majdi Yakoob agreed to operate upon her. When he was operating, he asked Zulfikar Sahib, “where is the father of the patient as it is a very serious operation”? Zulfikar Sahib said, “He is busy in a very important work”. Majdi Yakoob again asked “what sort of an important work he has to do that he cannot be with her ailing daughter?” Col. Zulfikar Sahib again said “He has just taken over the country”. Majdi Yakoob remarked “Oh is that so? Good luck to you then”.

After Gen. Ali Masood Akram became Director of Surgery and shifted to GHQ, Masud Ur Rehman Kiani became head of cardiac surgery at Cardiac Center Military Hospital Rawalpindi. Establishing an Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases was an uphill task. Brig.Masood Akram and Col.Zulfiqar Ali Khan both had to face lot of opposition coupled with professional jealousy. Sir Majdi Yakoob, Sir Donald Ross, Bryn William, Phillip Dorval, Terry Louis, Christopher Lincon came to Pakistan and operated

upon patients which provided an excellent opportunity to the local teams to get hands on training and many of them also had training overseas, thus AFIC/NIHD was born and became a glittering star in the field of cardiac surgery in Pakistan. Gen. Ali Masood Akram and Gen. Zulfikar Ali Khan are among the pioneers to establish the AFIC/NIHD. Due to reasons which are not difficult to understand, both Gen. Ali Masood Akram and Col. M.A. Cheema could not go along well, hence Col. M.A. Cheema got retirement and joined King Edward Medical College/Mayo Hospital Lahore. Successful heart surgery of Zain Zia daughter of Gen. Ziaul Haque at Hair field Hospital London became a turning point in the establishment of AFIC.

Gen. Zia's Visit to AFIC: Once Gen. Ziaul Haque paid a surprise visit to AFIC to enquire about the health of daughter of his tailor. Major Mujeebul Haque first saw him coming. When Gen. Zia was leaving AFIC Matron Col. Naseem Latif invited him for a cup of tea and the offer was accepted by Gen. Zia who was in a jovial mood. When the Matron requested him for an overhead bridge to facilitate nurses coming to AFIC, he had a big laugh and said, "it will result in lot of accidents on Mall Road as people will look at nurses crossing the bridge rather than looking on the road" which sent everyone laughing. However, it did provide an opportunity to Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Khan to brief Gen. Zia about the proposed AFIC and its importance. He listened patiently and a few days later took steps for the establishment of a 250-Bed AFIC/NIHD. Gen. Zia gave too much importance to this project and once during an inspection he remarked, "Pace of work is too slow, you will get it inaugurated when I won't be there." Incidentally President Ghulam Ishaq Khan formally inaugurated the AFIC in 1992 after the death of Gen. Zia.

Gen. Kiani has also described in detail his visits to King Hussain Medial City in Jordan in a delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Nasir. In Jordan, he says, it was the specialists who were heading the institutions and looking after administration. In Pakistan, since administration is looked after by GDMO, it has adversely affected growth of our institutions but on the other hand, our specialists are also not so keen and competent in

administration. He has also written about his meeting with Carpentier in Paris who is known for his expertise in mitral valve repair surgery, meeting with Dr. Tasnim Raza, Dr. Aslam Cheema who tried to start heart surgery at Mayo Hospital Lahore but went back disgusted and frustrated. He has also referred to other colleagues who gradually became a member of the cardiac surgery team which included Dr. Azhar Rashid, Dr. Shakil Qureshi, Dr. Asif Ali Khan and Bilal Bin Yousuf. He has also written about his visit to the cardiac center of Denton Cooley and meeting with Dr. De-Bakey in United States, first conference of Cardiac surgeons of Pakistan which he organized along with his team. He has also commended other members of his initial team at AFIC like Col. Mujeebul Haque, Gen. Ashur Khan, Gen. Masoodul Hassan Nuri, Gen. Azhar Mahmood Kiani, Col. Ashiq Hussain who established the Preventive Cardiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation Center at AFIC and Dr. Shahab Naqvi.

Lt. Gen. Safdar Mahmood was the first Surgeon General of Pakistan Army whose doors were always open and the office of Surgeon General became easily accessible for everyone. He did a lot for the development and progress of AFIC and approved everything he was asked, for which AFIC should always remain grateful to him. There was some suspicion of some cardiac problem hence I was advised to have an angiography in London and luckily everything was normal.

Death of Gen. Asif Nawaz Janjua: Yet another interesting chapter in his autobiography relates to the death of General Asif Nawaz Janjua who died of acute myocardial infarction. He was brought to AFIC but despite best efforts, emergency angiography and attempted angioplasty; he could not survive and passed away. However, some people convinced his wife and brother who addressed a press conference and an attempt was made to implicate Mian Nawaz Sharif in his death alleging that he was poisoned. Supreme Court of Pakistan took up this issue and Gen. Asif Nawaz Janua's body was exhumed and after various tests it proved that he died of AMI. It is said that he knew about his cardiac diseases, even got some tests done overseas but nobody knew about it in Pakistan.

Heart International Hospital

How Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani along with Gen. Zulfikar Ali Khan, Gen. C.M. Rafi, Gen. M. Ashraf Khan and Dr. Abdul Qaddus who are among the founder members of Heart International Hospital built this cardiac healthcare facility is also covered in the book. Gen. Zulfikar Ali Khan's retirement and the farewell reception held in his honour are covered in a special chapter in the book. As Army Officers had presented gifts of Jewelry to both his wives for which all of them had personally contributed, it was later investigated from where it was purchased. He also talks about his not so pleasant relationship with Gen. Yousuf who became Commandant of AFIC on Gen. Zulfikar retirement, who withheld his ACR for five years but somehow time passed and later he himself became Commandant of AFIC after the retirement of Maj. Gen. Ashraf Khan. During my four years' service as Commandant AFIC, Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani says that while he did enforce discipline but did not hurt anyone. "I had displayed a small notice at my office table which read: Please be brief and to the point as patients and problems may be waiting". It did save lot of time. I am glad that it is still present at the table of Commandant AFIC. I was known as one who never offers tea in my office to the visitors but would take them to the Cafeteria." He quotes Lt. Gen. Kamal Akbar that senior officers get afflicted with two serious ailments during service which are "Walking in high air, above the ground and Toxemia of Command". "It was in April 2001 that I received a letter from MS Branch that my date of retirement has been fixed as July 14th 2001. I had farewell meetings with all the senior officers including Surgeon General and when I was leaving, the entire staff of AFIC had lined up and showered flower petals on me. I was happy as I had retired after playing my innings well." Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani also had the distinction of serving as Councilor of CPSP from 1997 to 2005 and perhaps a very few know that he can dance and perform well on Hindko Mahya to amuse the audience.

Gen. Kiani has also tried to document some political developments in the country like the nineteen mile long political procession lead by Khan Abdul Qayum Khan from Rawalpindi to Taxila, the failure of Kashmir Operation which was named Operation Gibraltar, Gen.Zia’s tragic death in an air crash along with some other senior army officers and Formation of PANAHA with whom he is currently affiliated. Gen. Kiani writes that though lot of developments took place during Ayub era but even in those days poets like Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Habib Jalib, and Ahmad Faraz wrote a lot against him. The following couplets by Mohsin Bhoopali convey a lot:

جاہل کو اگر جہل کا انعام دیا جائے
 اس حادثہ وقت کو کیا نام دیا جائے
 رندوں کی ہتک ہے میخانے کی توہین
 کم ظرف کے ہاتھوں میں اگر جام دیا جائے

During the same days Habib Jalib addressing Z.A.Bhutto and pointing towards Ayub Khan had said that:

یہ وقت کس کی رعونت پہ خاک ڈال گیا
 یہ کون بول رہا تھا خدا کے لہجے میں

He also refers to an incident when Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto while he was ruling the country had said thumping his chair that “My chair is too strong and no one can dare remove me”. After the death of Mr. Z.A. Bhutto one of the furniture manufacturers released an advertisement stating that “Only their chair was the strongest”. Perhaps it was in those days that Iftikhar Arif had written the following couplet:

تم سے پہلے بھی ایک شخص یہاں تخت نشین تھا
اُس کو بھی خدا ہونے کا اتنا ہی یقین تھا

After appeals to spare the life of Z.A.Bhutto by world leaders were rejected by Gen.Zia, Lt.Gen. Shaukat Hassan who was very fond of Z.A.Bhutto, went to see Gen.Zia and requested to spare his life. A few days after this meeting, Gen. Shaukat Hassan was retired before time. It was under political expediency that Gen. Zia made MQM and the whole country had to suffer because of his such political initiatives. The advantages of living in a joint family system are also discussed and offer lot of useful advice to the readers.

Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani has gratefully acknowledged Prof.Dr.Shamim Zaidi and his “Khushdaman Rasheeda Begum” who not only persuaded him to write this autobiography but also helped improve it through editing, his wife and children, daughters in law and son-in-law who all helped him through different ways which enabled him to complete this autobiography. He has dedicated this book to his father and brothers and his mother in law. Pages 412. Price Rs. 1,000/- Available from Mr. Mohammad Ali, Hearts International Hospital, Rawalpindi. 0333-5192026

Important Points

1. I learnt surgery from Prof. Sardar Ali Sheikh, General Ali Masood Akram, General Mahmud Ul Hassan, General Malik Shaukat Hassan and world renowned cardiac surgeon Majdi Yakoob who were all great surgeons in those days
2. Every professor at KEMC used to be in the class room at 7.30 AM. Lecture was followed by Ward Round and then teaching in the OPD
3. During exam Prof. Ameer Uddin used to offer glass of Rooh Afza or Lassi to every student
4. Army doctors should be taught requirements and rules of Army but when attempt are made to make them real army personnel, they fail to do justice to Army as well as their profession of Medicine
5. During short military training, Drill Instructor Hawaldar shouted “We do not need brains in army. When you will become senior officers, by then your brain will start working but now you have to do what you are told”.
6. Gen. Safdar Mahmood approved all the development schemes of AFIC immediately for which AFIC should remain grateful to him forever
7. Gen. Shaukat Hassan met Gen.Zia and requested him to spare the life of Mr. Z.A. Bhutto. A few days later he was sent on forced retirement
8. During Gen. Zia’s visit to AFIC when Matron Naseem requested for an overhead bridge to facilitate nurses coming to AFIC, he said, “it will result in lot of accidents on Mall Road as people will look at nurses crossing the bridge rather than looking on the road.”
9. As planned after Bara Khana, all Bengali officers and JCOs left, soon firing started from all sides and all West Pakistan offices were shot dead

Important Points

10. On reaching Khulna I came to know that my unit had left for Memonsingh a few days ago. When people in Headquarters do not know the location of their units, how one can win a War
11. During shifting to the POWs Camp, Driver of our vehicle who was perhaps Muslim saluted us escaping the attention of the guard and we saw tears in his eyes.
12. During our stay in POW camps the humiliating attitude of Sikhs was most painful
13. When we heard of Pakistan's surrender, we all put our caps to fire and wept aloud. A day before Military Dictator Gen. Yahya had addressed the Nation and his speech was contrary to ground realities in East Pakistan
14. We have not learnt any lesson from the 1971 tragedy in which we lost half the country as we keep on making the same mistakes and experiments
15. Senior officers get afflicted with two serious ailments during service which are "Walking in high air above the ground and Toxemia of Command"- Lt.Gen. Kamal Akbar
16. Gen.Ali Masood Akram and Col. M.A. Cheema could not go along well, hence Col. Masood Cheema got retirement and joined KEMC/Mayo Hospital Lahore

If you don't want to make friends,
become an Editor.

Dr. H. Whitefield
Editor
British Journal of Urology