It was planned for months before it was disclosed in front of the media next year."

Although some of the students did not get a chance to read Plan of Attack, they were very much aware of what went on during the Iraq war and the controversial issues concerning it. Thus, the participating students were keen to question from what they read in newspaper articles and internet about the Bush administration's plan. Most of them knew about Bush as the mastermind of Iraq war, but they were not conversant with others who actually masterminded the war.

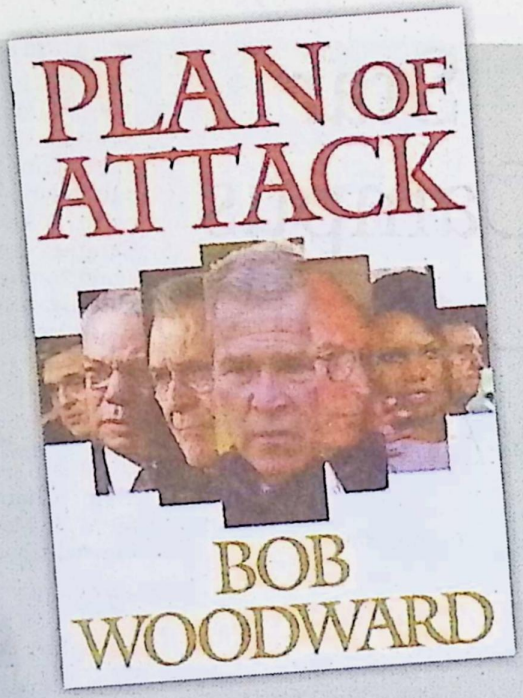
"Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, General Tommy Franks, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State Collin Powell, Prime Minister of United Kingdom Tony Blair and Vice President Dick Cheney were among the few who actually masterminded this whole plan for the Iraq attack. General Tommy Franks and Collin Powell were portrayed in the book as rather sceptical about the Iraq war plan. On the other hand, Donald Rumsfeld strongly believed that the west were going to be attacked by the al Qaeda and other such organizations. Dick Cheney, whose obsession after 9/11 was to eradicate all links with Saddam and Osama bin Laden, brought this issue to the table that Saddam would jeopardize America's security. For Cheney, taking care of Saddam was a high priority.



"Cheney is like your nightmare teacher," Dr. Alam joked with the students. "He is very intelligent and a brilliant war strategist but at times he acts like a schizophrenic. He pushed the general to the edge and relentlessly called the war front to find out about the updates of the war."

Students asked about the war strategies and how the authorities monitored the war. Surprisingly, they were left in awe when Dr. Alam mentioned one of the pictures in the book which showed politicians were finding out on what was happening in the war by watching television news reports, just as we do. They were not present during the war, and were observing by means of technologies like internet, telephone and television. Nevertheless, the war plan was meticulously followed.

The discussion also brought a secret insight that the students were unaware of. Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi politician and ambassador to US had endured controversy over allegations in *Plan of Attack* that President Bush informed him of the decision to invade Iraq ahead of Secretary of State Colin Powell. Bandar wanted Saddam Hossain to be removed as soon as possible.



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Invading Iraq had several advantages that the Bush administration acknowledged. Firstly, it had the massive oil revenue and secondly it was also a strategic area to launch offensive on other enemy countries in future.

The discussion changed its direction when Dr. Alam spoke about Tommy Franks. "General Tommy Franks was invited by President Bush to attend a luncheon with his family. Surprisingly, Franks passed up the invitation since he had work!"

"Wasn't he court-martialed because of it?" asked one of the students.

"Thinking from a sub-continental view point, he would have been court-martialed, but he wasn't. In the States, it is quite common to speak the truth on your face. The thing that you all should take note of is that the General was devoted to his work. He placed his duty ahead of the invitation," Dr. Alam explained.

Star Campus Literary Adda ended with an eager interest among the students to look forward towards the next adda session.