

Kuwaiti envoy in Baghdad after 18 years

Eighteen years after executed dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the Gulf emirate's envoy presented his credentials to Iraq's new Shiite government yesterday, promising to "forget the past."

The political leaders of the two countries have decided to forget the past and build good relations between them," Ali al-Momen said at a media conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari.

Kuwait has claimed damages from Iraq for the August 1990 invasion and the following seven-month occupation by Saddam's forces, which were expelled in 1991 by a US-led coalition.

Egypt arrests 32 members of banned outfit

Egyptian police have arrested 32 Muslim Brotherhood members over the past two days, the Islamists and security officials said yesterday.

Twelve men were arrested in raids on Wednesday morning in Fayoum province south of Cairo for suspected involvement in an attempt to bring medical supplies to Gaza earlier this month, the Brotherhood said on its website.

On Tuesday, police arrested 14 Brotherhood members in the Mediterranean town of Port Said, another five in Cairo and one in Beni Suef, also south of the capital, on similar grounds, the Brotherhood said.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest opposition group, is formally banned but fielded independent candidates in the 2005 parliamentary elections, winning a fifth of seats. It opposes Egypt's policy on the Rafah crossing.

Tough road ahead for McCain campaign

Team working frantically to make final comeback

While Republican John McCain revels in the role of the underdog and castigates pundits for writing him off in the race to the White House, his campaign is working frantically for a final comeback.

With less than two weeks left before the November 4 election, polls show a tough road to victory for the Vietnam war veteran on an electoral map wash in Democratic blue.

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama's lead among likely voters reached 14 points in a poll published by the Pew Research Center Tuesday while surveys show the Illinois senator ahead in most battleground states.

Experts say the key to a McCain comeback lies in winning over independents and white, working class voters who are conservative on issues like national security and supported Obama's former foe Hillary Clinton in the primaries.

McCain campaign insiders insist that the public polls do not paint an accurate picture of the race, and that states like working-class Pennsylvania, where Obama is leading by eight to 10 points in recent surveys, are still winnable.

The campaign has attracted large numbers of volunteers who are placing thousands of phone calls every day to their fellow Democrats, DuHaime said, adding that a sophisticated tracking and call-back system will help improve turnout and sway fence-sitters.

"Senator Obama has yet to close the deal with voters," DuHaime said.

"He's a great campaigner and a great speaker but is he ready right now to be president? There are

lingering doubts."

Senior McCain advisor Nicole Wallace said there was still plenty of time left to sway voters by "making clear that the choice between Barack Obama and John McCain has a very significant impact on our nation's economic health."

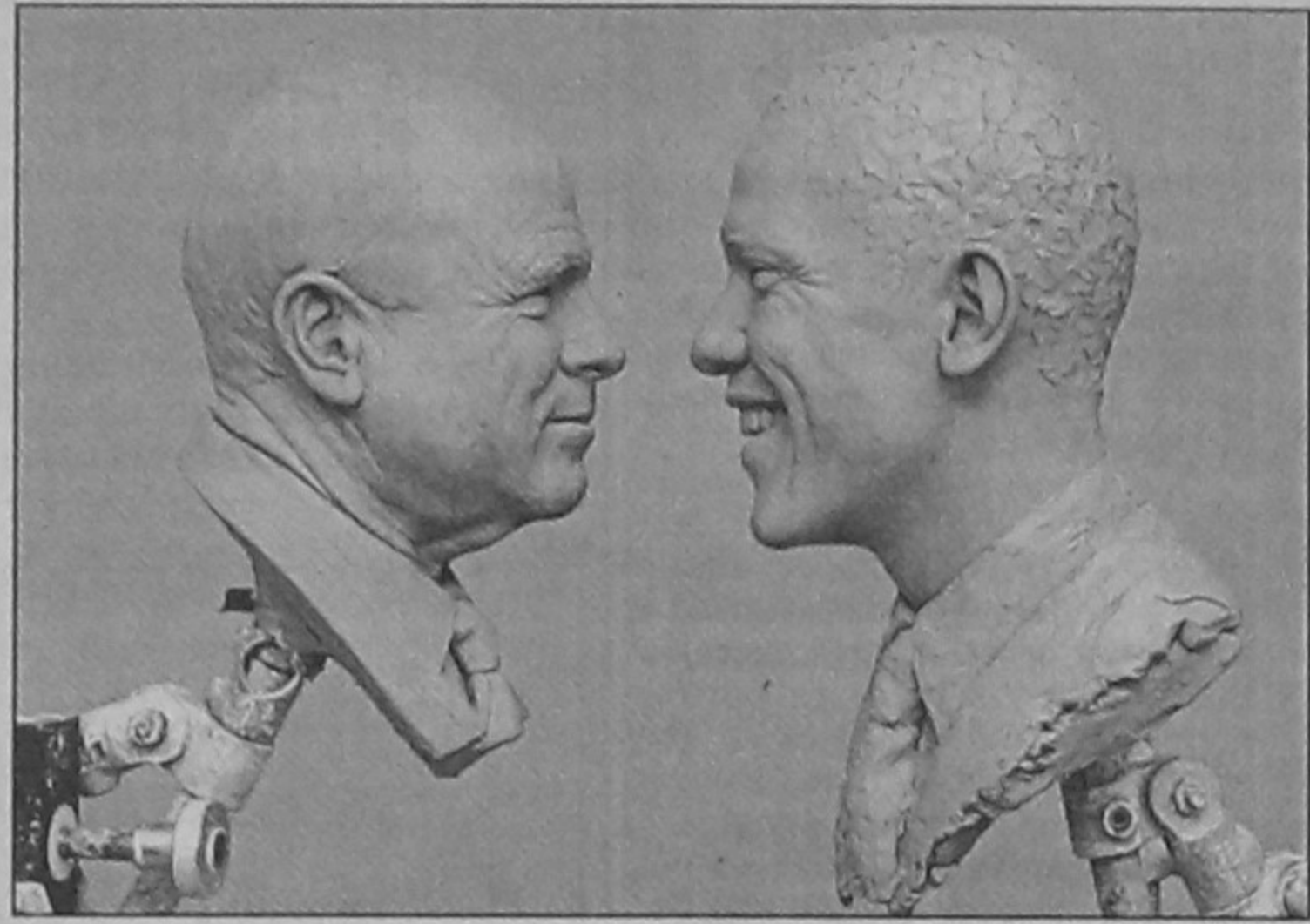
"It's an uphill battle to spread the message. We're vastly outspent," she told AFP.

But voters who do hear the message will choose someone who "believes in creating wealth and spreading success like John McCain does," Wallace said.

"The vast majority of Americans do not believe that we grow our economy by redistributing wealth."

A key part of McCain's multi-pronged attack against his rival has been to tell voters that Obama is a shifty, job-killing socialist bent on "redistributing wealth."

McCain has warned voters that Obama lacks the experience or judgment to lead the country "in this dangerous world," and stressed his own love of country, with his campaign slogan "Country First."



A handout picture obtained yesterday from Freerange Communications shows clay head moulds of US presidential candidates Senator John McCain (L) and Senator Barack Obama at Madame Tussauds Studios in London. To be certain the new US President is ready to take up office at Madame Tussauds London come inauguration day in January the studio team has been working on wax figures of both candidates. Clay models of Barack Obama and John McCain are nearing final completion and the winning candidates clay sculpture will be used to make the moulds to create a full wax figure as soon as their Presidential status is confirmed on 4th November.

Japan pledges US\$ 200m in aid to Georgia

Japan yesterday pledged 200 million US dollars (151 million euros) in aid to Georgia at an international donors' conference, deputy foreign minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said.

Much of the funding, to be given over three years, will be to improve transport infrastructure, said the minister, who made the pledge to nations and world financial organisations at the special conference in Brussels.

"I strongly believe that the contribution by the international community, including Japan... will aid the prosperity of Georgia and its people and will revitalise the regional economy as a whole," he told them.

North Korea running well under Kim

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak believes North Korea is running "normally" under leader Kim Jong Il despite reports the totalitarian leader suffered a stroke and had brain surgery.

Lee made the remark in an Oct 18 interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro, his office said yesterday, as questions linger over Kim's health despite Pyongyang's denials.

"I don't think there are any changes in North Korea because of Chairman Kim Jong Il's health," Lee said during the interview, referring to the North's leader by his formal title, chairman of the country's powerful National Defence Commission.

North Korea denies Kim's illness missed at least two key national ceremonies recently, and recently released pictures of him inspecting a military unit.

China must modernise its food safety

China must modernise its food safety system, the United Nations said yesterday, arguing an outdated and disjointed approach may have worsened a crisis over contaminated milk that killed four babies.

In a new report on food safety in China, the UN urged Beijing to adopt a "modern" food safety law and introduce other measures that would help build trust in the government's ability to ensure the nation's food was safe.

"The present system is managed by several laws and an old philosophy that government is responsible for everything," Jorgen Schlundt, the director of the UN's World Health Organisation department of food safety, told journalists.

"We have to change that kind of philosophy because we need the food producers to be responsible for food safety," he said.

The report was issued as China continued to deal with the fall-out of a scandal in which the industrial chemical melamine was found to have been commonly mixed into milk to give it the appearance of higher protein levels.

Four babies died and at least 53,000 babies fell ill after drinking tainted milk powder, and contaminated Chinese dairy products have been recalled around the world, once again tarnishing the global image of the "Made in China" brand.

The United Nations has recommended that China tighten oversight focusing on high-risk areas of the food chain and modernise its food safety system as more reports of world hesitation over Chinese products flow in.

Chinese dairy products have been recalled around the world, once again tarnishing the global image of the "Made in China" brand after four babies died and at least 53,000 babies fell ill after drinking tainted milk powder recently.

Meanwhile Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, said yesterday it will set new quality standards for its suppliers amid a scare over toxic milk products from China.

Mike Duke, vice chairman of Wal-Mart's international division, said the company is expecting "greater transparency... from our supplier partners" beginning next month.

They will be required to "tell us the name and location of every factory they use to make the products we sell," according to Duke's prepared remarks delivered at a company conference in Beijing. "Essentially, we expect you to ask the tough questions, to give us the answers and, if there's a problem, to own the solution."

Wal-Mart will apply the new standards to apparel first and eventually use them on all its products, Duke said.

The measures by Wal-Mart, China's largest foreign retailer, come as confidence in Chinese exports has been shaken after a series of product safety scandals.

Last year, high levels of industrial toxins were found in exports ranging from toothpaste to toys.

Wal-Mart sold Chinese-made cribs which were part of a recall this week by New York-based Delta Enterprises. The 600,000 cribs of various models with spring-loaded safety pegs were manufactured in China and sold between January 2000 and January 2007.

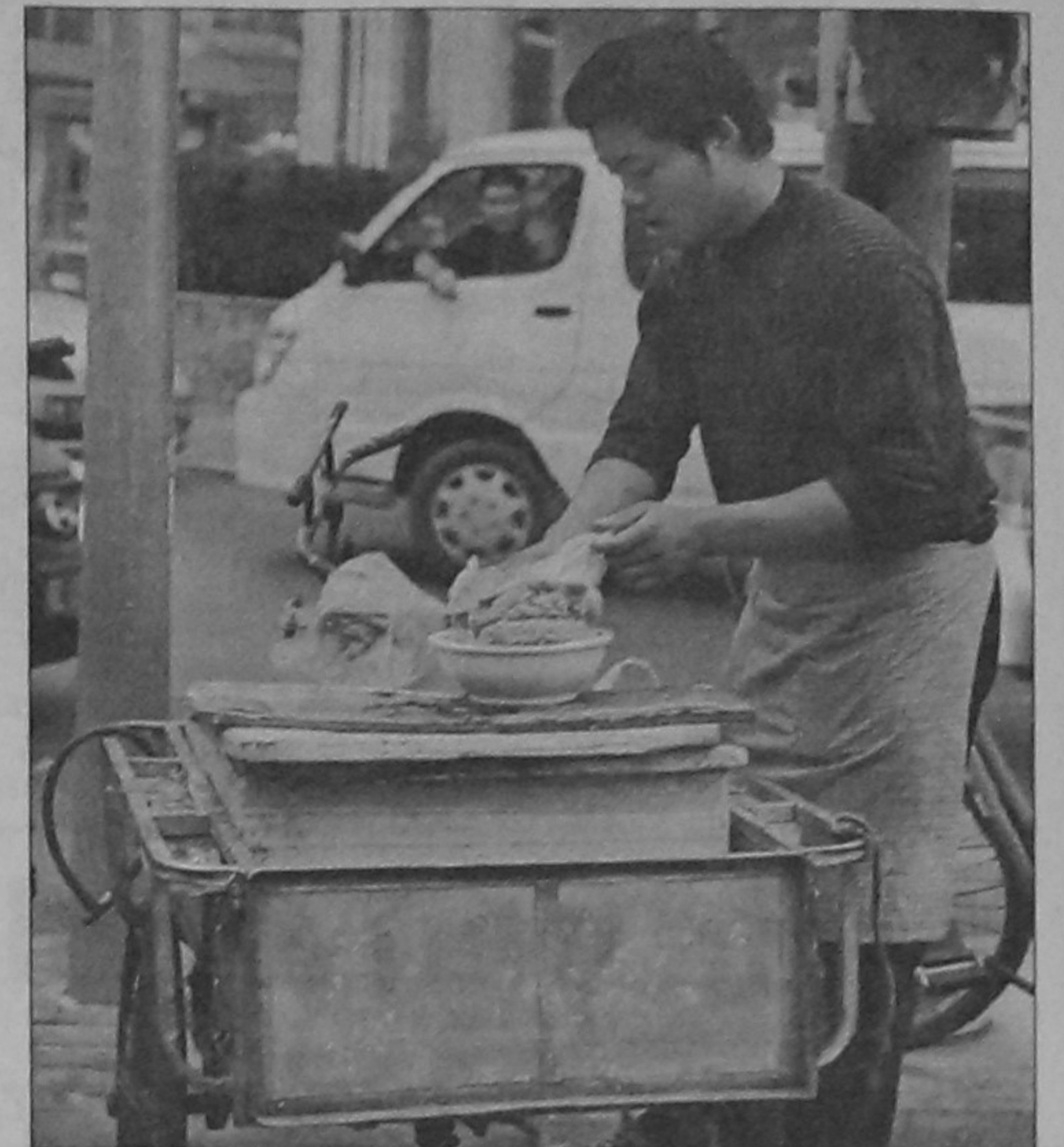
Another 985,000 cribs were recalled because of the potential for missing safety pegs. Those products were manufactured in Taiwan and Indonesia and sold between January 1995 and September 2007.

The recall was instituted after the deaths of two babies.

In the southern Chinese territory of Macau, government officials said late Tuesday that three more children have developed kidney stones.

In South Korea, the Agriculture Ministry says traces of melamine were found in five egg products imported from China.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says less than 2.5 parts per million of melamine are not harmful in most foods, except baby formula. Only one of the five products in South Korea had traces higher than that level.



A man prepares to deliver minced fatty pork just transferred from a plastic bag into a bowl for a street-side stall selling an assortment of inexpensive snacks in Beijing yesterday. China must change the way it thinks about food safety, the United Nations said in a report yesterday.

Toxic ship

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Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) on October 17 filed a writ petition accusing the importer of the ship of being in contempt of court. Hearing of the petition is to be held today (Thursday).

According to sources, MT Enterprise, which was earlier named Ocean Enterprise, Atlanta, Taiko following each re-registration, is tainted with asbestos, heavy and toxic metals like lead, mercury, cadmium, copper and zinc.

Madina Enterprise started the process of bringing the ship to Bangladesh for scrapping in mid-July.

The move concerned environmentalists and an NGO platform in a letter informed the ministry concerned about the matter in August. They cautioned the ministry about the ship and the threats it would pose to the fragile coastal marine ecology, said NGO Platform on Ship-breaking, Bangladesh Focal Person Mohammad Ali Shahin.

However, Madina Enterprise managed to get the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the shipping ministry and brought the toxic ship at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port early September.

Bela then filed a case and on September 17 a court issued a stay order on dismantling the ship.

The importer then got the shipping ministry to conduct an inspection. The inspection team reportedly had no representatives from departments concerned with labour, environment and explosive materials.

Madina Enterprise then filed a writ petition along with the inspection report of the shipping ministry and got the stay order vacated, said sources in the BELA and the NGO Platform.

Following another petition by Bela, a court on September 29 issued another stay order on beaching and dismantling the ship for three weeks. Bela filed another petition and got the court to extend the stay order till November 18, said Bela's senior lawyer Iqbal Kabir.

However, Madina Enterprise beached the ship defying the court order and started dismantling the ship. This prompted Bela to file another case accusing the importer of being in contempt of court.

Talking to The Daily Star Nazim Uddin claimed that they had all the required permissions and clearances from the authorities, including from the director general (DG) of shipping, Chittagong Port and Bangladesh Navy.

"We have already completed 50 percent of the dismantling job after paying all duties and taxes," he said.

He said they did not do anything that might be considered contempt of court.

"The rule issued by the court on September 29 was on the DG of shipping and there is no restriction on the dismantling of the ship," he claimed.

NGO Platform on Ship-breaking, Bangladesh in a statement last night called for restriction on dismantling ships which have not been cleaned up or contains one or more hazardous substances.

In the statement they demanded ensuring cleaning up of ships before they arrive in Bangladesh and gradual phasing out of scrapping ships using the beaching method.

Bangladesh is now emerging as a ship-building country so it is possible to dismantle ships on dock yards, read the statement signed by NGO Platform on Ship-breaking, Bangladesh Focal Person Mohammad Ali Shahin.

RURAL POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Career Opportunity

Rural Power Company Ltd. (RPL) established in 1994 engaged in power generation, invites applications from qualified persons to fulfill the following positions on urgent basis for its 210 MW Mymensingh Combined Cycled Power Station and Head Office.

Sl.	Position/Title	Qualification & Experience	Age	Salary & other benefits
01	Manager (Planning & Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.Sc. Engineering (Mechanical/Electrical) from a reputed university/institute. Minimum 15 (Fifteen) years of experience in power sector of which at least 3 (three) years of experience should be in power generation project implementation and commissioning in a similar position. Administering Turnkey Contracts for Power Plant Erection, operation and maintenance of large power plants. Knowledge and experience in international and local procurement, preparation of bid documents, bid evaluation and contract document/ negotiation. Excellent interpersonal skill and good command both in written and verbal in Bengali & English. Have leadership quality to control subordinate. Ability to operate MS office Applications. 	Age should not exceed 45 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 40,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
02	Manager (Human Resource)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBA or Masters with major in HRM/Master degree with PGDPM/PGDHRM Minimum 12 (twelve) years of experience in Human Resource Management in a reputed organization. Knowledge on labor/company laws, Government rules and regulations is essential Excellent interpersonal skill and good command both in written and verbal in Bengali & English. Ability to operate MS office Applications. Have leadership quality to control subordinate. Ability to work independently. 	Age should not exceed 45 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 40,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
03	Manager (Accounts & Finance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACA/ACMA with 10 (ten) years of experience in a reputed large organization. OR M. Com in Accounting/Finance with B.Com (Honours) and minimum 12 (twelve) years of experience in a reputed large organization. Excellent interpersonal skill and good command both in written and verbal in Bengali & English. Ability to operate MS office Applications. Have leadership quality to control subordinate. Ability to work independently. 	Age should not exceed 45 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 40,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
04	Chief Chemist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.Sc. Engineer (Chemical) / M.Sc. in Chemistry from a reputed university. Minimum 10 years of experience in large steam power plants. Experience in overall quality control of steam, feed water, raw water, effluents, potable domestic water, etc. Experience in Water Treatment Plants, Chemical dosing systems, etc will be added advantage. The incumbent will be the chief Quality control officer of the power plant. Excellent interpersonal skill and good command both in written and verbal in Bengali & English. Ability to operate MS office Applications. Have leadership quality to control subordinate. Ability to work independently. 	Age should not exceed 45 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 30,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
05	Plant Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.Sc. Engineering (Mechanical/ Electrical/Chemical/CSE) from a reputed public / private university. Must have a good academic background. Experience in Power Plant will be added advantage. Ability to work under pressure. Excellent interpersonal skill and good command both in written and verbal in Bengali & English. Ability to operate MS office Applications. 	Age should not exceed 30 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 16,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
06	Accountant (Plant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBA with major in Accounting / M.Com in Accounting from a recognized University. Must have a good academic background. CA/CMA (Inter) will be preferred. Minimum 5 (five) years of work experience in Finance & Accounting in a reputed organization. Ability to work independently. Ability to operate MS office Applications. 	Age should not exceed 35 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 12,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
07	Security Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduate in any discipline. The Applicant should be experienced in security management. Retired army personnel will be given preference. Minimum 3 to 4 years experience of serving in a private security company or any well reputed company. Ability to operate MS office Applications. Capability to deal with private security guard and Ansar personnel. Ability to work independently. 	Age should not exceed 35 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 12,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
08	Assistant Chemist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters in Chemistry/Applied Chemistry/Bio-Chemistry from a Public/Private University. Must have a good academic background. Experience in Water Treatment Plants, Chemical dosing systems, etc will be added advantage. Ability to operate MS office Applications. 	Age should not exceed 35 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 12,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
09	Assistant Plant Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma in Electrical / Mechanical /Power Engineering from a reputed polytechnic institution. Minimum 8 (eight) years working experience in relevant field. Ability to operate MS office Applications. 	Age should not exceed 35 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 12,000/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules
10	Junior Driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Class 8 (Eight) pass. Minimum 5 (five) years of practical experience with valid Driving License. Should be well behaved. Should have Knowledge about problem detection of Engine & Vehicle, traffic rules signals. 	Age should not exceed 35 yrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic salary Tk. 6,800/- Per month House rent & other fringe benefits as per company rules

Interested candidates are requested to send their curriculum vitae, (2)two passport size photographs, certified copies of all academic certificates along with a cover letter on, or before 05.11.2008 to the address mentioned below.

CV must include (i) Name, (ii) Father's Name, (iii) Mother's Name, (iv) Present Address (v) Permanent Address, (vi) Contact Phone no(s), (vii) Mailing Address, (viii) Date of Birth, (ix) Age (years, months & days) on 05.11.2008, (x) Educational qualification starting Degree, Year of passing, Group/Subject, Board/ University, Result with marks/Grade, (xi) Professional Education and membership (if any), (xii) Experience in details and (xiii) Training achieved (if any) (must be furnished chronologically)

Note:

a) Persons employed in Govt. Semi-Govt. & Autonomous organization shall apply through proper channel. b) Please mark the envelop with the position applied for. c) For all the positions conditions may be relaxed in case of really deserving candidates. d) RPL Management reserves the right to cancel any or all applications without assigning any reason what so ever. e) Any kind of persuasion will disqualify the candidate. f) Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

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Rural Power Company Limited
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Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

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Apply by 13 November, 2008 with CV, attested copies of academic certificates, transcripts, one passport size photo & two recommendation letters to:

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