

## Call to ensure fair price of rice, paddy for farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishak Samity (BKS), a platform of farmers, yesterday demanded setting up government purchasing centres at every weekly market in rural areas to ensure fair price of rice and paddy for farmers.

At a press conference at Mukti Bhaban of Paltan in the city, BKS leaders also urged the government to set up bazars at suitable places like one in Bogra inaugurated by the army chief recently.

They also demanded more allocations for agriculture sector in the next budget and urged the government to make sure that real farmers are benefited from the budget allocation.

In a written statement, the BKS leaders said the government should provide the farmers with agricultural inputs in time and without any hassles.

They also demanded distribution of agricultural inputs through Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

The leaders suggested giving more allocation for agricultural research saying that the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute was doing excellent job by inventing new high yielding varieties of paddy, and hoped that it would be able to invent more varieties if they are given more fund.

The BKS will submit memorandums to deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers across the country to press home their demands on June 7.

BKS Executive President SM Saboor, General Secretary Morshed Ali, Organising Secretary Sajjad Zahir Chandra, Vice-presidents Nurur Rahman Selim and Han Sadhan Dey were present at the press conference.



President of Chevron Bangladesh Steve Wilson gives away scholarship to a girl at Nabiganj upazila in Habiganj recently while Buffie Wilson looks on.

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PHOTO: ISPR

An Armed Forces team with relief goods left for China by a C-130 BAF aircraft yesterday. Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury and Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qingdian were present at BAF Tarmac at Kurmitola in the city during the departure of the team.

## Relief team leaves for China

UNB, Dhaka

A 24-member team of the Armed Forces left Dhaka yesterday to provide necessary relief and medical support to the earthquake-affected people of China.

On behalf of the government, the army team led by Brig Gen Muhammad Mujibur Rahman flew to China by a BAF C-130 aircraft with the relief materials, said an ISPR press release.

Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury, principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division, saw the team off at Kurmitola Air base.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (operation and training) Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian and senior military officers were present on the occasion.

The team will hand over the relief goods to the Chinese authorities. The relief materials include medicine and tents weighing approximately 9.5 tons.

A devastating earthquake hit Sichuan province of China recently leaving over 80,000 people dead and 3,00,000 others injured.

To overcome the worst effect of the disaster, Bangladesh government took a decision to send the relief goods to China as a token of brotherly gesture.

## 300 awarded Chevron scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron Bangladesh recently awarded scholarships to about 300 meritorious students of five schools, two colleges and two madrasas of Nabiganj upazila in Habiganj district.

President of Chevron Bangladesh Steve Wilson distributed the scholarships among the scholarship winners, says a press release.

Under the ongoing annual education support programme that was launched in 2005, the students were selected for scholarships on the basis of both financial need and merit this year. Each student got Tk 6,000 as scholarship.

Speaking on the occasion, Wilson said, "I hope that these initiatives have a positive impact on the students and will help them build a foundation of learning for their future."

Besides the scholarship programme in Bibiyana, Chevron have initiated pre-primary education, a teachers' training programme, and provided support to improve school amenities, the press release added.

## 'Change in men's mindset a must for women's dev'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for changing the mindset of men for the development of women and children.

The workshop was held under a project titled 'Communication for the development of women and children' at the seminar room of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city.

In the last financial year, 22 percent of the development budget was allocated for women, said Additional Secretary to information ministry Md Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury while speaking as chief guest at the programme.

He suggested 24 percent allocation for women in the upcoming national

budget.

Thirty-three percent of women head their families in the country.

Additional Secretary (Development) and National Project Director Kamal Uddin Ahmed said a change in social attitudes towards women is a must for the development of women.

For this, a social movement is inevitable, he added.

Chief of Communication and Information Section of Unicef in Dhaka Christine Jaulmes stressed the need for making the project effective and dynamic. Unicef will welcome any new project for the development of women and children, she added.

PIB Director General Mohammad Nazrul Islam presided over the inaugural session.



Participants pose for photograph at the concluding session of a workshop titled 'Negotiations and Deal Making Strategies' organised by Professional Development Programme Unit of MH School of Business at Presidency University in the city recently. A group of mid-level and senior executives from different organisations, including Brac Bank Ltd, G4S Security Services Bangladesh Ltd, Amicus Properties Ltd, Bangladesh Power Development Board, Dhaka Rubber and Tyre Mfg Ltd, Golden Trade Ltd, Paikgachha Municipality, Khulna and Save the Children-USA, participated in the workshop. Head of MH School of Business Dr M Haque distributed certificates among the participants.

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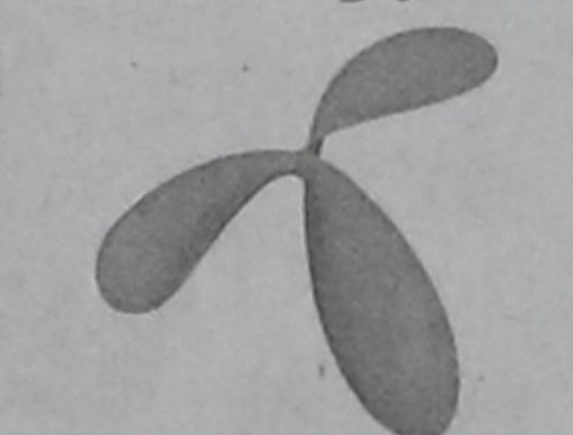
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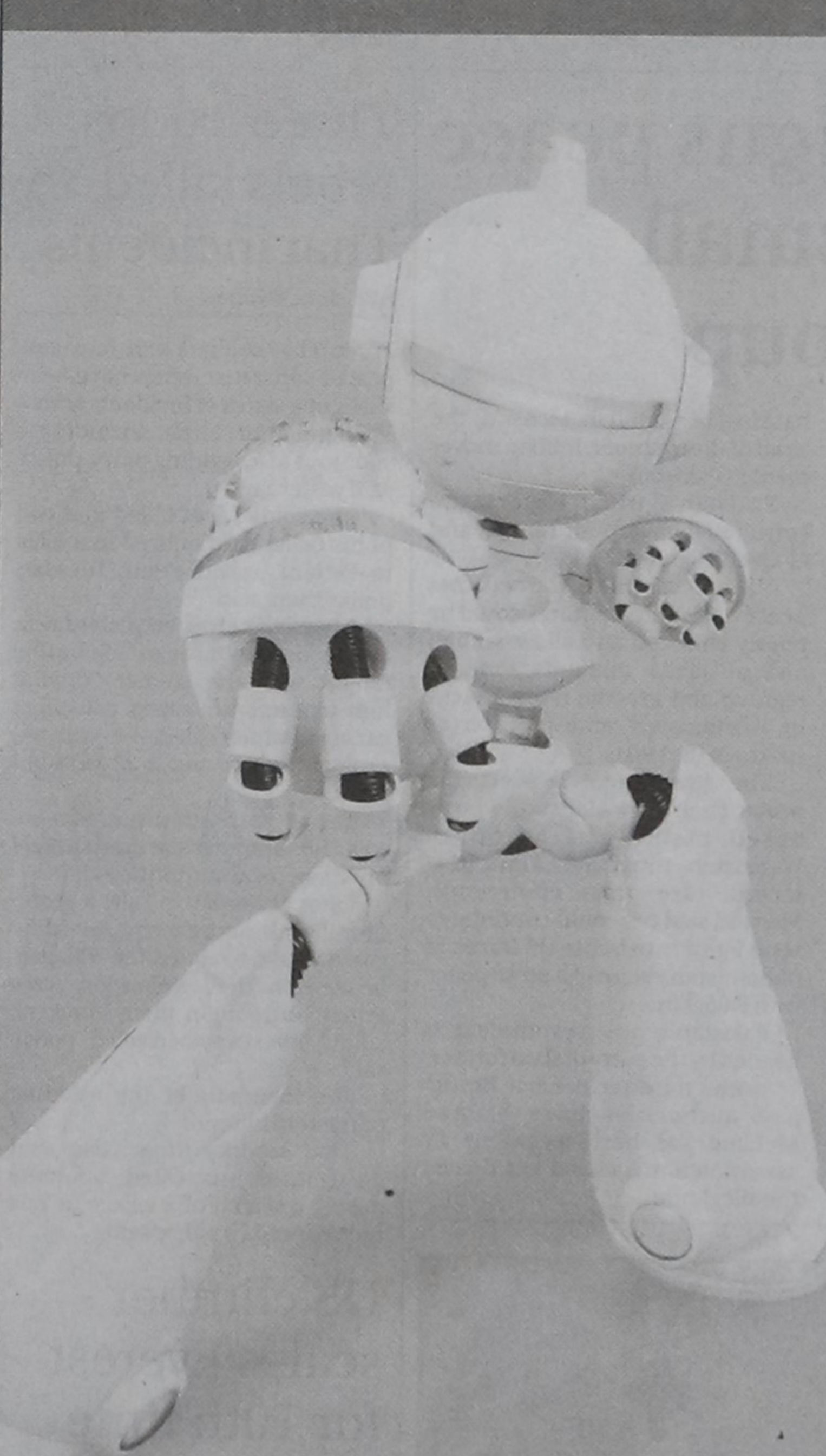
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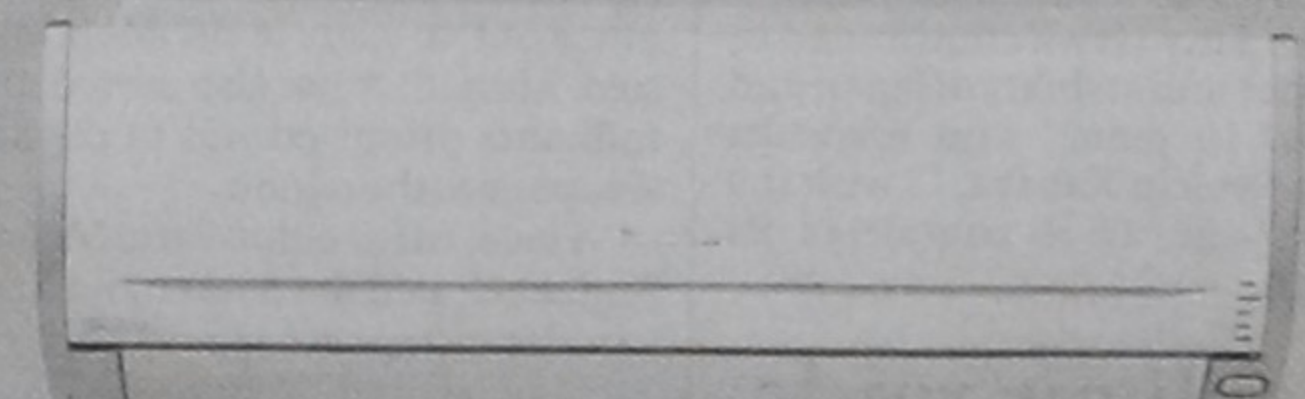
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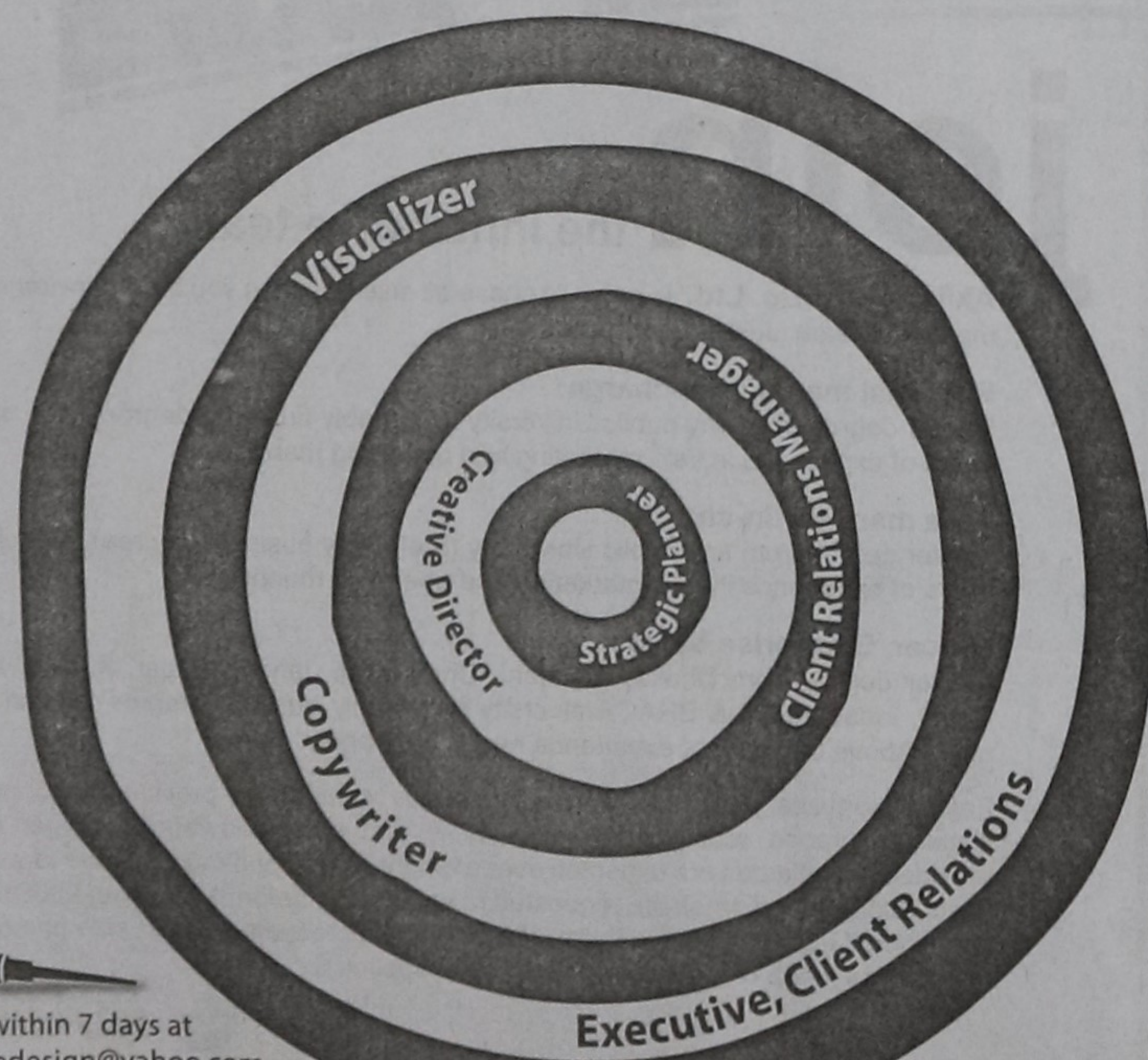
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