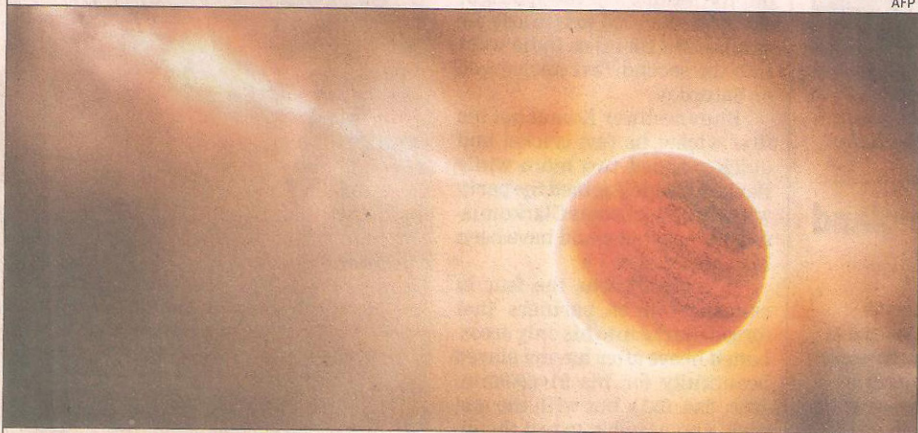


FIRST LOOK: BIRTH OF A PLANET

World.

AFP



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: An artist's impression of the formation of a giant gas planet in the ring of dust around the young star HD 100546. For the first time, astronomers have captured direct images of a forming planet still embedded in a thick disc of gas and dust surrounding a star, just 335 light-years from Earth. They studied the process using European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile