

Trends



Actress Laurence Iseli performs during a rehearsal of the musical "Robots" at the Barnabe Theatre in Servion, near Lausanne, April 22, 2009. The musical tells the story of a man in self-imposed exile who lives with three robots (a butler, a pet and a dancer) and who is facing a visit from a woman who represents his last link with the outside world. The three automatons were developed by a spin-off from the EPFL called BlueBotics and are able to act autonomously and interact with the two actors and the set. The musical will have its world premiere May 1. — Reuters photo

Arctic fossil shows how seals went from land to sea

OTTAWA: Scientists in Canada's Arctic have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown web-footed carnivore that helps explain how seals developed from land-based mammals, a member of the team said on Wednesday. The very primitive animal, measuring around 110 cm (43 inches) from nose to tail, had a body similar to that of an otter, with a skull more closely related to a seal.

Smallest exoplanet found in search for Earth's twin

SANTIAGO: Scientists searching for a planet like Earth said on Tuesday they have found the smallest planet ever detected outside the solar system, less than twice the size of our own. The exoplanet, a planet that orbits a star beyond the solar system, is called Gliese 581e after the star it circles. Because of its relatively small size it is likely rocky, like Earth, as opposed to gas giants such as Jupiter or Saturn, the astronomers said.

Japan mulls satellite for missile launch detection

TOKYO: Japan is mulling an early warning satellite that can detect missile launches, a government official said Wednesday, amid worries about North Korea's missile power. Pyongyang launched a rocket on April 5, which Japan saw as a disguised missile test. The launch has sparked calls for Japan to consider possessing an early warning satellite and beefing up its missile shield.