



### Damascus Weather

#### Today

▲ 38°

▼ 22°



#### Tomorrow

▲ 36°

▼ 20°



### SYRIA

**POLICE SEIZE PILLS WORTH €1.5 MILLION SMUGGLED FROM LEBANON**  
Page 2

**SYRIAN JAILED IN ISRAEL FOR PAST 25 YEARS SENDS MESSAGE HOME**  
Page 2

**OLD DAMASCUS' JASMINE AROMA OVERPOWERED BY RUBBISH STINK**  
Page 3

**REGIONAL  
IRAN UNVEILS DRONE AIRCRAFT**  
Page 6

**SCARED IRAQI WOMEN ARE PACKING PISTOLS**  
Page 7

**BUSINESS  
SYRIA'S ADRA CITY ENJOYS BILLIONS IN INVESTMENT**  
Page 12

**LIFESTYLE  
SYRIAN FILM STARS TAKE HOME RECORD EARNINGS**  
Page 22

**LISTINGS  
THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN DAMASCUS**  
Page 30

# Food glorious food

## Is Ramadan too commercialised?



PRINTED BY UNITED GROUP (UGP)

# The Jordanian Cucumber

Israeli government officials often argue that there is no need to evacuate the West Bank settlements and indeed no need to create a state for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank because a Palestinian state already exists in neighbouring Jordan.

Jordan granted most of the West Bank Palestinian refugees citizenship and is now a nation of six million people, divided about evenly between those from the East Bank of the Jordan River - considered original Jordanians - and those from the West Bank.

The Israeli proposal by which West Bank Palestinians simply have to come to Jordan for all their problems to be solved is called the 'Jordan option'.

In discussing this Jordan Option, Khalid Mishal (the leader of Hamas) and other Arab leaders, jokingly call it the 'Jordan cucumber' because the Arabic word 'khiyar' translates as both 'option' and 'cucumber'.

This option / cucumber word-play is the starting point for Tom Bogaert's 'Jordan cucumber' project. It consists of painted and rotting cucumbers, a translucent tablecloth greenhouse, seedlings and video.

Having worked for five years in New York, Bogaert moved this year to the Middle East.

The Belgian artist embarked on a two year 'grand tour' working on 'Impression, Proche Orient' (IPO), a project referencing issues relevant to contemporary Middle East society including politics, artistic identity and cucumbers.

He is currently at work in Syria and Jordan. The final 'IPO' results - in the form of a new site-specific installation - will be presented in New York City in 2013.

**Tom Bogaert's work is now on show at Le Pont gallery in Aleppo until 2 September.**

Read more about Bogaert's projects at [www.tombogaert.org](http://www.tombogaert.org)

