Lawmakers take every precaution to stay alive until presidential poll

THOUSANDS OF ARMY TROOPS, POLICE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING MPS

Rym Ghazal

Rym Chazal
Daily Streat?

BEIRUIT: Thousands of army
troops and police officers, including the Internal Security Forcost special "Parthers" unit and
bomb-smifting dogs, have been
assigned a single task for the
next few weeks — protecting
— Fake license plates, timed
when the protecting of the protecting protecting provided protection for lawnakers during this extraordinarily,
publy Start or diversible standard of the first of the provide protection for lawnakers during this extraordinarily,
Daily Start or diversible standard of the protection provided by a coordination of efforts between the
police and the Lebanese Army.
"All the March 14 Mfs have requested protection, along
with a special request from the

minimized their outings and visits outside their homes," he added. "Not much of a file." Security sources confirmed that over 40 majority MPs have been housed in two hotels and restricted locations, and have become "one big happy family." "It was difficult to provide each and every MF special procedure of the security source, who asked to remain anonymous. Several majority MPs told The Daily Start that they would be leaving Lebanon, while

some have already packed their things and left the country un-til the next parliamentary ses-sion in October as a precaution. The last assessmated MP, Phalange lawmaker Antoine Ghancen, had also followed the pack in taking refuge abroad. He was killed just two days after re-turning to Lebanon. The last assessmated the packet in the packet to the packet in the packet of the packet to the packet of the packet of the packet to the packet of the packet of the packet the packet of the packet of the packet of the packet the packet of the packet HIZBULLAH MAN ESCAPES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

TYRE: A Hizbullah member barely escaped an attempt on his life after he jumped from his car before a hand greated exploded under the vehicle in South Leabanon on Welendsdy, according to a police report.
Ahmad Mihama, St. fried to start his green Mercedes when he heard an object falling from the vehicle, which was parked near his home in

Jbal al-Botm, east of the Southern port city of Tyre, police said. Mhanna leapt from the vehicle just in time to escape the explosion of a hand greande which had been placed on the left front tire. The car sustained damaged but Mhanna was unharmed. Police said they had started an Whanna was unharmed. Police said they had started an exestigation. — Ary with additional reporting by Mohammed Zaatari

Some officials have their whole families under tight security, such as the Genayed lamily, given the assissinations of both Bashir (1962) and Yerre (2006), and Yerre (2006),

FIRST PERSON

Lebanon must set a counter-example in an undemocratic Middle East rife with violence

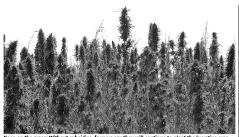
In that several occasions, since the beginning of my campaign, to underline the need for Parliament to fill the presidenture of the extension of Emile Laboud's mandate, over which Speaker Nabib Berri Despension of Emile Laboud's mandate, over which Speaker Nabib Berri Despeaker's absence today, and that of the MPs belonging to his parliamentary group, constitute a further dereliction of their fundamental constitutional duty. Instead of transforming Parliament into their fundamental constitutional duty. Instead of transforming Parliament into their fundamental constitutional duty. Instead of transforming Parliament into their fundamental constitutional duty. Instead of transforming Parliament into the hate it, tragic undemocratic practices have again denied decent Lebanese men and women their most legitimate political forum, in a country where for the first time said where, for the first time since 1970, free presidential elections can be the first time since 1970, free presidential elections can be how they do not the mental to the theory of the first time since 1970, free presidential elections can be forward to the manual to the the said where, for the first time since 1970, free presidential elections can be forward to the manual to the manual to the manual to the said that the sa

the presidential election. This is unacceptable, and I call on all MPs to meet immediately, every day, and without discontinuity, in order to carry on open deliberations for the presidency, against tryamical practices, in the great tradition of world democracies since Philadelphia and the Jeu Parame. This sides consolvant of the president of the president of the republic an electoral body and not a legislative assembly."

I call on the UN to open its doors so Lebanese MPs can exercise their duty in New York

Undemocratic practices must be reversed:
Instead of petty horse-trading in obscure
rooms outside Parliament, with no reside the
entruched positions on either side. Lebanon can and must offer the violent and undeto the properties of the properties of the conconsidering the threat to their lives and
the lives of presidential candidates, and the
unprecedented practice of physical closure of
Parliament, if this proves too difficult to carry
out in Beirut, I arm repeating my call to the
UN Organization to shoulder its historic responsibility toward peace and democracy in
the Middle East, and to open up if necessary
is doors in New York for the free exercise of
Lebanese MPs of their constitutional duty.

/////////////////////// is a lawyer and a candidate for Lebanon's presidential election



Political impasse means pot of gold for Bekaa cannabis farmers

BEKAA VALLEY: For a poor

BEKAA VALLEY. For a poor Lebanese farmer, the cannabis plant sprouting from the fertile ground of the Bekaa Valley is a poor plant sprouting from the fertile ground of the Bekaa Valley is a For his country, it symbolizes the dwindling authority of a state weakened by conflict. Surveying a field of the spindly leafed plants, he explained how the government stroy the valuable but illegal crop. But this year, they never came, allowing him to reap his first harvest in years. "Praise God—he wanted to compensate us," he said, declaring give beautiful to the compensate us," he said, declaring give beautiful to the compensate us, "I have been continuing up," With Lebanon's government paralyzed by political conflict and its army bogged down with security concerns, farmers have been country concerns, farmers have been security concerns, farmers have vacuum to grow what locals desertibe as one of their best cannabis crops since the 1975-1990 Civil War. In the chaos of war in the 1986s, Lebanon emerged as the Middle East's main source of

narcotics, producing up to 1,000 tons of cannabs resn annually and 30 to 50 tons of opium, from which heroin is made, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and From the United Nations Office on Drugs and For Bekaa Valley farmers, those were the good old days, said Ali Hamiyeh, mayor of the village of Tanayor.

"The financial situation was very good. People could do nomic restrictions," he said.
"Now things are different." The end of the CivilWar and reconstruction of the state spelled the end for large-scale farming of narcotics, which their way by land and sea to the streets of Europe. The smaller quantities produced since the war are mainly consumed lo-cally, farmers say. The special part of the acceptance of the produced since the war are mainly consumed lo-cally, farmers say. The produced since the war are mainly consumed lo-table to make a decent living from wheat or bardey, farmers would plant "They would farm abli here, a bit there. This year they farmed a lot," Hamiyeh said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The British Embassy in Beirut would like to inform you that due to the increased demand in Lebanon for British Visas, settlement applications are taking up to 12 weeks to process. Non-vers extellment applications (e.g. Lourist, student and visitors including family visits) are taking up to three weeks to process. However, straightforward non-vertifienent applications (e.g. # you are a regular traveller to the UK) are usually processed within 24 hours. You will be advised when you submit your application when to return for

your decision.

For details about our visa services please visit the embassy website:
//www.britishembassy.gov.uk/lebanon//
British Embassy-Beirut

The farmers were embodeened by asens the government
was losing its grip, weakened by
conflict between anti-Syrian
factions and others allied to
Damascus. The army, meanmilitatus in north Lebanon in a
conflict between the syrian
factions and others allied to
Damascus the army,
meanmilitatus in north Lebanon in a
from May to September.
The control Damascus used
to exercise over security in the
country ended in 2005 when its
trons were forced to withdraw.
"Respect for the stanchas fallthe control of the stanchas falllikical conditions and divisions,
anything goes," Hamiyeh said.
The cannabis crop is sold directly to local producers of
hashish, the restin made from the
plant which is usually smoled.
A cannabis field of 1,000
square meters is worth \$1,000
to its owner, against \$50 for the
same area of wheat, he said.
The farmer this year only
cannabis he used to grow during
in the CivilWay to usiad he might
sow more next season: "Well
monitor the situation and see.
"The great thing about
amables is that it doesn't need
10,000 Lebanese pounds (\$71),"
the farmer said.
The plant hardly requires
water and can grow without

the farmer said.

The plant hardly requires water and can grow without fertilizers or pesticides which add to the cost of other crops.

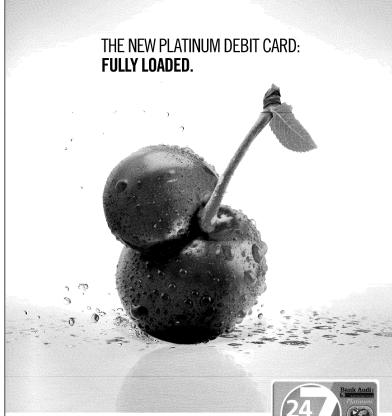
The plant hardly requires the cost of the cost of other crops, and the cost of other crops, of the we don't fall into delt and are forced to sell our land", he said. "The state has turned its back on farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture adults; it has finded resources and the control of the region of other crops.

"The budget of the Agriculture Ministry is very, very limited, meaning the ministry cannot offer anything to these people;" said Sami ad-Chami, darted, meaning alternatives to cannabis farming have failed, he said. Security forces were destroying camables crops his season, as farming have failed, he said.

Security forces were destroying camables crops his season, as farming have failed, he said.

Security forces were destroying camables crops his season, as "People will keep the view that 'whenever I get the chance and I can exage he sate, I will grow this crop," Chami said.



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Sons Nicholas, Nareg, daughter Nataha, brothers Berg Jibilian and his wile abroad, and Varoug Jibilian and his family abroad; sisters Jaurice wile of late House Donabedian and Hise children, and Vertchan wife of Happ of Theketzan and their children, and Vertchan wife of Happ of Hoeketzan and their family, son of her paternal uncle Sarkis Jibilian; daughter of her paternal uncle Caro Tahmajian, and tamilles Kinkona, Ibilian, Donabedian, Tcherkezian, Eshkibashian,

OBITUARIES Tarian, Basmajian, Tahmajian, Broudian, and relatives in Lebanon and abroad announce with the deepest regrets the passing away of: