

## BLOM BANK BEIRUT MARATHON RUNNERS



### THE Beirut Marathon Association

is honored to announce that Maxime Chaya, Lebanese national sporting legend, will be firing the start horn at the BLOM Bank Beirut Marathon races on Sunday, November 26, 2006.

Maxime has proudly planted the Lebanese flag on top of all Seven Summits including Mount Everest (8,850m) most recently in



May 2006. "I am thrilled to be starting the race this year," says Maxime, "and wish all the runners a fantastic run for the love of Lebanon." Born and raised in Lebanon, Maxime has always had a unique talent for all sports disciplines and has been a top-notch international competitor, as well as a national champion, in cycling, triathlons, road races, skiing, and climbing. He has also organized many sporting events in Lebanon, as well as supported the organizing committee of the Beirut Marathon Association since its start in 2003. He is married to Poupa Chaya and has two kids: Edgard (12) and Kelly (10). An equally avid businessman, Maxime graduated with honors from the London School of Economics and runs VO2Max, a biking and sporting gear shop in Ashrafieh. Maxime was knighted in December 2003, and again in May 2006 with the National Order of the Cedar, and is a Lebanese hero and role model for tens of thousands of young sports fans. "We are truly honored to have Maxime with us on the start podium this year," says Mark Dickinson, Managing Director of the BMA. "We hope his presence will motivate and inspire our runners to believe in their abilities and always aim for the top!"

“ I am **thrilled** to be starting the race this year, and wish all the runners a fantastic run **for the love of Lebanon.** ”

### MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2nd overall at the "Trophée du Nil", Egypt 1998
- 3rd overall at the "Raid Thai", Thailand 1999
- 1<sup>st</sup> place at the "Kenya Sports Safari", Kenya 2001
- 23<sup>rd</sup> at the UCI World Masters Championships, Canada 2001
- First Lebanese "Ironman" triathlete, Holland 2002
- 4 times consecutive winner of the Redbull Sno-to-Sea, Lebanon 2003 to 2006

### CLIMBED PEAKS, AND REACHED LANDMARKS:

- Mont Blanc (France)
- Cho Oyo (Tibet / Nepal)
- Mount Aspiring (New Zealand)
- The Geographical North Pole (the Arctic Circle)
- The South Pole (Antarctica)
- Mount Ama Dablam (Nepal)
- The Matterhorn (Switzerland / Italy)

### CLIMBED, AND RAISED THE LEBANESE FLAG ON ALL SEVEN SUMMITS:

- Mount Kilimanjaro (5,963m) Tanzania – September 2001
- Mount McKinley / Denali (6,195m) - Alaska - June 2003
- Aconcagua (6,962m) - Argentina - January 2004
- Vinson Massif (4,897m), Antarctica - December 2004
- Mount Elbrus (5,633m) Russia - July 2005
- Carstensz Pyramid (4,884m) Indonesia - November 2005
- Mount Everest (8,850m) - Tibet / Nepal – May 2006