



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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### **Sudan Airways plane crash**

Officials and state media released contradicting statements about yesterday evening's jetliner crash at Khartoum International Airport. Some said "about 100 out of the roughly 200 passengers were killed," while several hours later officials began reporting a lower toll of "about 30 people." The head of the Sudanese police said that "the bad weather caused the plane to crash land, split into two, and catch fire," while the airport director said "bad weather did not cause the crash," which he blamed on "a technical problem." Officials could not say for sure how many were killed. The Airbus A310 was coming to Khartoum from Amman, Jordan via Damascus, Syria. Sudan has "a poor aviation record"; last month, the defense minister of the Government of Southern Sudan was "killed in a plane crash along with at least 22 other people." A local newspaper quoted "observers" that claimed "international sanctions by the U.S. and western countries are the main causes of aviation accidents in Sudan because they do not allow Sudan to get the spare parts needed for maintaining planes." (*Akhbar Al-Yom, Al Khartoum Al Sharee Al Syassi et al.*)

### **Sudan-China economic agreements**

Yesterday, China and Sudan signed eight economic agreements at the end of Sudanese Vice President Ali Othman Taha's visit to Beijing. The signed agreements covered various fields of cooperation between the two countries, such as agriculture, public health, technology, and finance. According to the signed agreements, China will extend two grants of financial assistance to the Sudanese government, provide an interest-free loan, will establish an agricultural center in eastern Sudan, and will send Chinese agriculture experts to Sudan. Taha invited Chinese businessmen to invest in his

country saying that "Sudan enjoys broad possibilities for investment" other than oil sector. (*Al Wefaq, Al Wahda, Akhbar Al-Yom, Al Watan*)

### **Human rights of JEM detainees "fully respected"**

The Anti-Terrorist Attorney Office representative in the Omdurman Attack investigation committee, Jamal Osman Suleiman, disclosed yesterday that 105 detainees are "still under investigation" and that 480 suspects have been released. Addressing a forum organized by the Human Rights Consultative Council he stated that "human rights of all suspects are observed." Sudanese Armed Forces representative in the committee said "although the Geneva International Humanitarian Law Convention gives the Sudanese government the right to try the accused in military courts, the government refrained from such actions and referred the cases to civilian criminal courts." (*Sudan Vision*)

### **Prediction on Bush visit to Sudan**

Local newspapers are quoting "White House sources" that say "President Bush intends to visit Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Iran by the end of this month after concluding his farewell visit to Europe." Commenting on the news, "observers" said "if these visits take place, they will cause an upheaval in the world and represent a shift in U.S. foreign policy." (*Al Sahafa, Al-Wahda*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.