

FINANCIAL POST

AirBlue crash report be published

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Karachi.

30-12-10

I write in regards to the letter by Mr. Shamim Shaikh in your esteemed paper (Dec. 29). I also agree with Mr. Sheikh's every word.

I had the great honour of meeting with him in Karachi yesterday. The pain of the passing of his beloved son in the AirBlue accident was writ large on his face and I found it difficult to look him in the eye. The only solace I can offer him is that given the high-energy nature of the impact with the terrain, it was mercifully over for everyone on board in a nano-second. Indeed, it is a supreme irony that the pain the families are suffering and will suffer for the rest of their lives is infinitely greater than those who perished.

I know I have written about the accident many times before, so I beg the indulgence of the readers of this esteemed paper and ask them to bear with me.

My purpose in writing is motivated by a desire to keep this accident alive and not to let it fade into the mist of time without (as the Americans are fond of calling it), "closure" to those families who lost their loved ones. This can only be done by publication of the full accident report, including the output from the "back-box" (the metal casing is actually orange in colour for ease of identification) and let the chips fall where they may.

By now the authorities concerned should have learnt that secrecy, stone-walling, obfuscation, denial, deafening silence and spin is deeply counter-productive and is only intensifying the anguish of the families. They deserve better. Most of all, they deserve to know the truth.