

# FINANCIAL POST

## **Air Blue-202 shot down?**

*Meekal Ahmed,  
Chantilly, VA, USA.  
30-11-10*

I hope that readers of this esteemed newspaper are as curious and fascinated as I am about the cause of the recent Air Blue accident in Islamabad with the loss of 152 lives on board. Recently, a gentleman with seemingly impeccable credentials as a scholar (but no expert on aviation, claimed that he had the real answer. The Air Blue Airbus A321 was shot down by missiles. The missiles were launched by some hostile western embassy from the roof-top. America, the "Great Satan", was the culprit since America was killing our people with drones, and shooting down a commercial airliner was no big deal.

After questioning my patriotism and loyalty to Pakistan [as others have done, including in this esteemed newspaper because I live in proximity of the headquarters of Blackwater (never seen them)], the author of this missile theory, in response to my e-mail said I needed to make sure "which side I was on". I am on the side of the truth. A missile attack on a commercial airline is "heat-seeking". It will seek out the signature of the greatest heat coming from the target - that is the exhaust of a jet engine where temperatures can be thousands of degrees centigrade. If the Air Blue aircraft had indeed been hit by a missile, the engine would have exploded and with fuel lines severed the wing would have probably come off. This would have rendered the aircraft uncontrollable and she would have shed debris across a wide swathe of Islamabad killing hundreds on the ground.

None of this happened. The crash sight has an impact point which is fairly concentrated, consistent with a high-velocity impact with terrain. The subsequent landslide is also consistent with the consequence of a high-velocity impact.

The longer the Pakistan CAA keeps this accident under wraps, the more will these conspiracy theories grow. This helps no one and only prolongs the agony of the surviving families. The CAA needs to put conspiracy theories to rest by publishing the findings of Cockpit Voice Recorder and the Digital Flight Data Recorder. I hope they will. This was a "pilot Error", the most common cause of airline accidents.

.