The article “Plastic Pakistan” written by Muhammad Hamid Zaman, criticises the recent directive issued by the Government of Pakistan to wrap checked luggage in plastic. The article begins by talking about the plastic pollution in the oceans and the recent plastic bag findings in some of the very deepest parts of the oceans specifically mentioning the anecdote of a Dallas based businessman and deep sea explorer. The article further informs the audience that approximately 8 million tons of plastic is discarded in the oceans annually which is equivalent to 15 loaded trucks per minute. The issue of the use of plastic is not just the disposal but also the production as plastic production significantly contributes to a significant increase in the carbon footprint leading to climate change. The resultant climate change affects not only our weather but also crops, rivers and health.

The article then goes on mentioning that turning a blind eye to all these issues related to plastic pollution, the new directive issued by the Pakistani Government to plastic wrap checked luggage is not only weird but also extremely ill-considered. If the reason for the issue of this directive is the safety of luggage then a far wiser and sensible approach would have been to better train the luggage handlers, monitoring them and taking action against those who steal from the luggage. Considering Pakistan has awful trash handling, non existent recycling and lack of general awareness, this directive has serious and disastrous environmental costs which are being ignored under the claim that this directive was put forward under the previous government.

The third issue concerning this is the fact that the added economical costs would have to be borne by the consumers and even if they might seem minimal to some no one is a fan of added costs. The article says that the most saddening aspect of the whole ordeal is the fact that our honourable ministers of climate change and science are completely silent over this issue all the while they are planning science conferences which do little good.  The article ends on a sarcastic note saying that it seems as if the hidden goal is to first ruin the environment and then have the youngsters fix it.