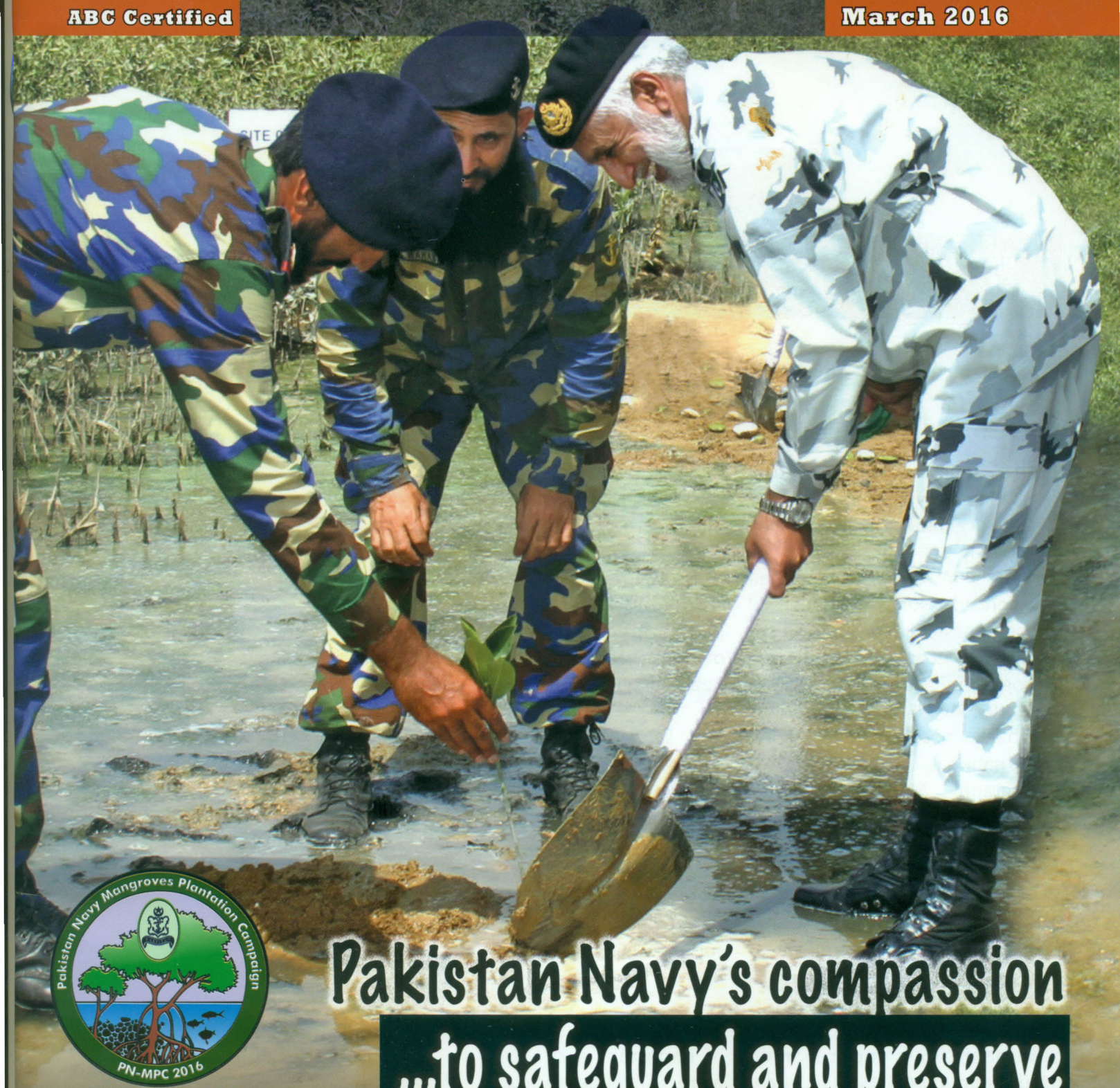


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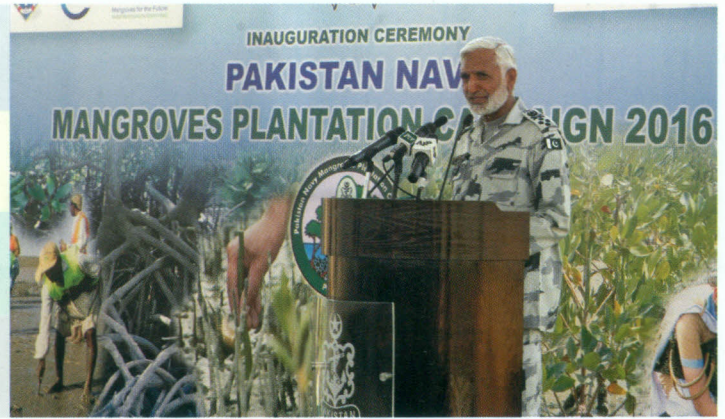
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March 2016



**Pakistan Navy's compassion
...to safeguard and preserve
mangrove forests and coastal eco system**

Pakistan Navy launches National Campaign for Mangroves Plantation & Protection



On the occasion of International Day of Forests, Pakistan Navy in line with Prime Minister of Pakistan's Vision of "Green Pakistan" launched "Pakistan Navy – Mangroves Plantation Campaign" in the coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Zakullah graced the occasion as Chief Guest and inaugurated Pakistan Navy Mangroves Plantation Campaign.



The inauguration ceremony was attended by a large number of senior military and civil officials including representatives from business community, journalists, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), officials from Federal and Provincial Forest Departments.

On the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted that deforestation of mangroves has not only affected biodiversity of our coastal areas but also livelihoods of coastal communities. While asserting on the need to focused attention and coordinated efforts from all walks

of the society, the Naval Chief said that Pakistan Navy's Mangroves Plantation Campaign is an initiative to plant additional mangroves as well as to create awareness amongst masses about the significance of mangroves in a bid to support the nature.



Mangroves occur at crossroads where oceans, freshwater and land realms meet. They are among the most productive and complex ecosystems on the planet, growing under environmental conditions that would kill ordinary plants very quickly. They are vital to coastal ecosystem, prevention of sea intrusion and sustainment of marine life. Unfortunately, over the years, Mangroves along the Pakistani coast have diminished due to negligence and apathy of all concerned. Being a major stakeholder of the maritime domain and realizing the importance of mangroves for marine life, Pakistan Navy has taken a major initiative to revive Mangrove forests all along the coast. ❖❖

Chief of the Naval Staff message on the occasion of National Campaign for Mangroves Plantation & Protection



“International Day of Forests is a tremendous opportunity to celebrate our unique relationship to nature, forests and trees. This is the day for the whole world to celebrate nature and to appreciate the gifts that nature has bestowed on us in the form of forests and trees. I believe that forests are inextricably linked to our social and economic well-being and health of the ecosystem.

For centuries, forests have been a source of food, fiber, livelihood resources and water for all the living beings on this planet. They are also well-paying in combating climate change and contribute in preserving natural resources for our next generations. However, these gifts of nature are eroding in the face of economic development, demand for domestic needs and urbanisation. Hence, it is incumbent upon us to realize the impending perils and establish policies, laws and institutions that are required to implement sustainable forest management regimes.

Government of Pakistan has taken a lead in this drive and initiated the Green Pakistan Programme, which is considered a step in the right direction. Considering it as a national responsibility and following suit, Pakistan Navy has also launched Pakistan Navy - Mangroves Plantation Campaign (PN-MPC) in 2016 aimed at planting around 1 Million Mangroves along the entire coastline of Pakistan. These mangrove forests would be home to a large variety of fish, crab, shrimp and mollusk species and will form an essential source of food for thousands of coastal communities along the coast. Studies have shown that there are as many as 25 times more fish of some species on reefs close to mangrove areas than in areas bereft of mangroves. This makes mangrove forests vital for commercial fishing as well.

Deforestation of mangroves along our coast has continued at an alarming rate. Hence, there is a need to remedy the situation at the

earliest and make up for the lost mangroves' treasure. To achieve this, people in general and policy makers in particular need to be sensitized regarding economic and ecological importance of mangrove forests. PN-MPC, as an offshoot of Prime Minister's Green Pakistan Programme, will help raise awareness amongst masses about the significance of mangroves preservation. I am confident that this endeavour will lead to mangroves plantation on a massive scale along the Baluchistan and Sindh coast in a bid to support the nature and give a fillip to improve environment and build better Pakistan.

I urge public-private sectors and all segments of society to join hands with Pakistan Navy in this noble cause and commit to reversing mangroves deforestation, preventing forest degradation, helping to reduce poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods for all forest-dependent people.” ☒☒