

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Battle with Python

Dacca, July 2.- Villagers in North West Bangladesh fought a tug-of-war last night with a monster Python which swallowed a 25-year-old man up to the waist. Police said today the man was eventually pulled out of the python's jaws, but both he and the ten-metre snake died in the struggle (Sunday Standard, 3rd July, '77).

Rookery of Turtles in Orissa Discovered

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 9.- A rookery of sea turtles, believed to be the largest in the world, has been discovered at Bhitarkanika in Cuttack District in Orissa. Following the discovery, the Orissa government has submitted a scheme to the Centre for the conservation of the valuable reptiles at Bhitarkanika and Astarang, along the sea-shore and the Chilka Lake. The species can be a source of earning foreign exchange for the state. According to Dr H R Bustard, FAO consultant to the crocodile conservation programme in India, the discovery was made in 1974, while he was making a countrywide survey of crocodilians. Dr Bustard told Samachar that he had identified the species as the Pacific or Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). This year, he said, research had started and during a three-week period in February 158,171 nesting female turtles were marked. Dr Bustard said until the work started this year, 1.5 to two million eggs were taken to Calcutta annually under license for human consumption and export. Now following Dr Bustard's advice, the Orissa government had completely banned business in turtle eggs and special arrangements had been made to protect the eggs and nesting females (Samachar, Nov. 10th, '77).

Huge Turtle Swims Ashore

Visakhapatnam, May 19.- A six-foot long turtle....swam ashore near thousands of quarters of Andhra University during (the) early hours of the day and it was taken to Indira Gandhi Zoological Park and put in a full and healthy salt water tank. Rajamani the turtle, which might weigh a little less than a ton, was first noticed on the beach road by Dr C V Raghavulu....during his morning walk. Krishna Murthy, officer in charge of Central Marine Fisheries research unit who examined the turtle said it was a female....which was on shore to lay eggs. He said that it would not survive in fresh water. The turtle crossed the road by slowly crawling with its flippers, with a view to re-entering the sea. An iron rod was fixed in the sand and it was tied to it with a rope (The Hindu, May 20th, '76).

7 Die After Consuming Turtle Meat

Trunelveli, Aug. 7.- Seven persons, including six children in the age group of eight months to seven years, died at Manapad, about 75 kms from here, after consuming turtle meat. Tiruchendur police told Samachar on trunk telephone this evening that more than 80 persons consumed turtle meat on Aug. 3rd. They developed some symptoms of poisoning and were admitted to Udankudi, Tuticorin, Manapad and various other hospitals nearby (The Hindu, 8th August, '77).