World News Roundup

Turkmenistan eyes vet clinic: The president of Turkmenistan, a country criticized for allegedly exterminating stray dogs and cats, has ordered the establishment of a national veterinary clinic for domestic animals. The government newspaper Neitralny Turkmenistan reported Saturday that President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov said “this work is necessary for educating the younger generation in the spirit of mercy and humanism.” In 2017, activists protested what they described as a brutal campaign to slaughter homeless animals ahead of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which Turkmenistan hosted. (AP)

Ex-power plant demolished: A long-shut coal-fired power plant in western Germany has been demolished with the help of more than 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of explosives. The former Knepper power station on the outskirts of Dortmund was brought down in two explosions on Sunday. The first destroyed the main body of the plant and the second collapsed in 120 meter. (AP)

Activists try to protect pangolins: As World Pangolin Day is marked around the globe, Saturday, some conservationists in South Africa are working to protect the endangered animals, including caring for a few that have been rescued from traffickers. The eighth annual pangolin day is celebrated to raise awareness about the shy, nocturnal scaly anteater, which some wildlife organizations say is the world’s most trafficked animal. In South Africa, traffickers often sell the pangolin meat locally and ship the scales to Asia, where they are in demand for use in traditional medicine. The growing illegal trade has prompted plans in South Africa for a rehabilitation center for sick or rescued pangolins as well as the deployment of sniffer dogs specially trained to detect the scales’ pungent aroma. (AP)

US eyes recycling batteries: The US government will lead an ambitious effort to develop technologies to recycle lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles, cellphones and other sources to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of metals crucial to battery production in anticipation of soaring global demand and potential shortages, Department of Energy officials said Friday. Calling the effort a national security issue, the agency announced a $15-billion, three-year research and development project housed at the Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago. (AP)

Runner recalls encounter: The 31-year-old trail runner recalled Thursday his encounter with the silent cat that lunged at him from behind, clamped its jaws down on his wrist and clawed at his neck, face and body. Striking the mountain lion on the head with a rock didn’t get it to release its grip. Neither did his attempts to stab the animal in the neck with twigs. “There was a point where I was concerned that I wasn’t going to make it out,” Kauffman told reporters. “I had that fear in my heart and mind.” It was the first time Kauffman publicly recounted the Feb 4 ordeal that left him with 28 stitches and a reputation for toughness and bravery that overshadows his wiry frame. (AP)

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