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TOP STORY • ASIA

Maryland to Manila to Shenzhen: Trump's Three-Stop Trip

America's president flies to Asia to meet old partners, then China's and Russia's leaders.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

On Monday, US President Donald Trump left an air base in Maryland for Asia. His first stop is Manila, in the Philippines, where ASEAN, a club of 11 Southeast Asian countries, is meeting. He is also due to meet the Quad leaders: Narendra Modi of India, Sanae Takaichi of Japan and Anthony Albanese of Australia. The White House said he will sign a trade deal with Thailand, too.

On Wednesday, after lunch with the Philippines' president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., he flies on to Shenzhen, a city in southern China. On Thursday, he is due to meet China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin there.

It will be the first meeting ever between the leaders of these three countries. They plan to talk about their nuclear weapons. A White House official called it a starting point, not a deal.



The map marks the Philippines and China, the two countries on Trump's route.

WHY IT MATTERS

The US, China and Russia have never met as three leaders before. Officials say Thursday is a start, not a deal.

WORLD • EUROPE

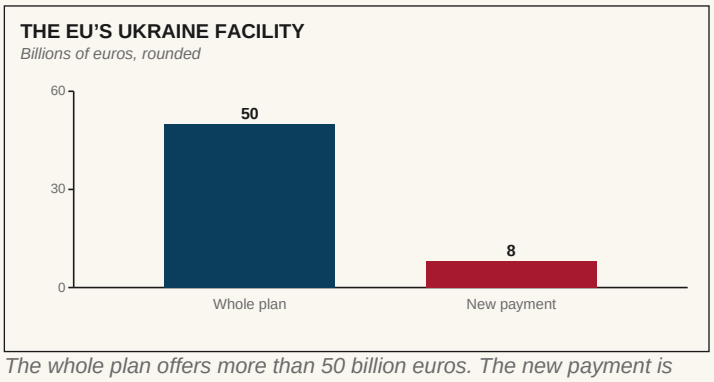
In Brussels, Europe Squeezes Russia and Helps Ukraine

EU ministers punished nearly 50 Russian banks and sent Ukraine a big payment.

On Monday, European Union ministers met in Brussels, in Belgium. They put sanctions, or punishments, on 113 more Russian people and companies. Nearly 50 are banks.

The same day, the EU approved nearly 8 billion euros for Ukraine. It is the biggest payment yet from a plan offering more than 50 billion euros.

EU official Kaja Kallas said Russia adds demands to keep the war going. "A ceasefire must come first," she wrote.



The whole plan offers more than 50 billion euros. The new payment is nearly 8 billion.

WHY IT MATTERS

Kallas says sanctions and frozen money give Europe power as it pushes for a ceasefire and then peace.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• United States: Flights are nearly normal after a faulty router halted all US departures for over four hours.

• Space: Europe's Euclid telescope found its first comet, between Jupiter and Saturn.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Thursday: Trump, Xi and Putin are due to meet in Shenzhen.

• Türkiye: the UN climate summit COP31 enters its final week.

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.