# Manchester United’s Malaysian tour ends in viral ridicule and ASEAN All-Stars defeat



Manchester United's post-season tour in Malaysia has taken a tumultuous turn, marked by a viral open-top bus parade that was quickly overshadowed by a humiliating defeat against the ASEAN All-Stars. As the squad paraded through the streets of Kuala Lumpur, showcasing first-team players like Bruno Fernandes, Harry Maguire, and Alejandro Garnacho, the club's struggles became a spectacle for rival fans online. Social media was rife with ridicule, particularly aimed at the open-top bus display, with one user cheekily captioning a viral clip: "Manchester United parading in Malaysia. What a joke of a club."

The ASEAN All-Stars, a select team of Southeast Asian internationals, took full advantage of the opportunity. In a match held at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium, which boasts a capacity of 84,000, they secured a decisive 1-0 victory, lifting the Maybank Challenge Cup in the process. The win seems to encapsulate a broader narrative surrounding Manchester United's recent performances, including a dismal 15th place finish in the Premier League— the club's worst ranking since 1974. This outcome marks a significant downturn for a team that has long strived for excellence in English football, and it adds to the woes of supporters who are facing the possibility of another season without European competition.

The interest in the match was strong, with nearly 45,000 tickets reportedly sold, a testament to the local fanbase's engagement despite United's recent lacklustre performances. ProEvents Group CEO Julian Kam noted the high demand for this event, suggesting an eagerness among fans to connect with a club that has been absent from Malaysia for 16 years. This represents a significant opportunity for United, with the club reportedly earning around £8 million for the tour, which also includes a subsequent fixture against the Hong Kong national team.

Off the pitch, the mood is equally tumultuous, with uncertainty surrounding several key players' futures. Alejandro Garnacho’s recent benching, paired with reports of Marcus Rashford’s agent meeting with Barcelona officials regarding a potential transfer, underscores the instability within the squad. Manager Rúben Amorim has publicly expressed concerns for the club as they prepare for an uncertain summer, telling Garnacho to "pray" for his future amidst rising competitive stakes.

This clash against the ASEAN All-Stars was not just a friendly but also part of a charitable initiative, with proceeds benefiting the Al-Sultan Abdullah Foundation. Such events aim to spotlight regional football talent and highlight the sport's growing popularity across Southeast Asia, offering a platform for players who otherwise might not receive international recognition.

Despite the disappointing results, the overall tour represents an attempt for Manchester United to re-establish connections with their fanbase and enhance their global brand. However, with the heavy weight of recent performances weighing down on the club, fans will be hoping for a swift turnaround in fortunes as they prepare for the challenges ahead in the new season.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14758495/Man-Uniteds-bizarre-open-bus-parade-streets-Kuala-Lumpur-ruthlessly-mocked-rival-fans-amid-embarrassing-defeat-exhibition-Malaysia-tour.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASEAN_All-Stars)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14758495/Man-Uniteds-bizarre-open-bus-parade-streets-Kuala-Lumpur-ruthlessly-mocked-rival-fans-amid-embarrassing-defeat-exhibition-Malaysia-tour.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://shekhinah.my/2025/04/11/manchester-united-returns-to-malaysia-after-16-years-for-maybank-challenge-cup/), [[6]](https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/05/10/man-united-bring-full-squad-to-malaysia-for-asean-all-stars-showdown-at-bukit-jalil/176284)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/04/18/almost-45000-tickets-snapped-up-for-man-united-asean-all-stars-clash-in-kl-on-may-28/173631), [[3]](https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/04/10/vietnams-kim-sang-sik-to-manage-asean-all-stars-in-may-28-friendly-against-manchester-united-at-bukit-jalil/172586), [[6]](https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/05/10/man-united-bring-full-squad-to-malaysia-for-asean-all-stars-showdown-at-bukit-jalil/176284)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14758495/Man-Uniteds-bizarre-open-bus-parade-streets-Kuala-Lumpur-ruthlessly-mocked-rival-fans-amid-embarrassing-defeat-exhibition-Malaysia-tour.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASEAN_All-Stars), [[5]](https://shekhinah.my/2025/04/11/manchester-united-returns-to-malaysia-after-16-years-for-maybank-challenge-cup/), [[6]](https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/05/10/man-united-bring-full-squad-to-malaysia-for-asean-all-stars-showdown-at-bukit-jalil/176284)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14758495/Man-Uniteds-bizarre-open-bus-parade-streets-Kuala-Lumpur-ruthlessly-mocked-rival-fans-amid-embarrassing-defeat-exhibition-Malaysia-tour.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/04/18/almost-45000-tickets-snapped-up-for-man-united-asean-all-stars-clash-in-kl-on-may-28/173631> - This article reports that nearly 45,000 tickets have been sold for the upcoming friendly match between Manchester United and the ASEAN All-Stars at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur on May 28, 2025. ProEvents Group CEO Julian Kam highlighted the strong fan interest, especially following United's recent performance in the UEFA Europa League quarter-finals. The match is expected to be a significant sporting event in Malaysia for 2025, with fans from across Southeast Asia anticipated to attend.
3. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/04/10/vietnams-kim-sang-sik-to-manage-asean-all-stars-in-may-28-friendly-against-manchester-united-at-bukit-jalil/172586> - The article announces that Kim Sang-sik, the head coach of the Vietnam national football team, will manage the ASEAN All-Stars in their friendly match against Manchester United on May 28, 2025, at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. The ASEAN Football Federation selected Kim based on his outstanding record in the 2024 ASEAN Cup, where he led Vietnam to an unbeaten victory. Kim expressed honour in leading the ASEAN All-Stars, aiming to showcase the pride and strength of the Southeast Asian region.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASEAN_All-Stars> - The ASEAN All-Stars is a football team founded by the ASEAN Football Federation in 2014, comprising Southeast Asian internationals and selected players from regional leagues. The team has played several matches, including a notable 1–0 victory over Manchester United on May 28, 2025, at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. The match was part of the Maybank Challenge Cup, a charity event with proceeds going to the Al-Sultan Abdullah Foundation (YASA).
5. <https://shekhinah.my/2025/04/11/manchester-united-returns-to-malaysia-after-16-years-for-maybank-challenge-cup/> - This announcement details Manchester United's return to Malaysia after 16 years for the Maybank Challenge Cup on May 28, 2025, at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium. The match against the ASEAN All-Stars is expected to be a significant event, with tickets ranging from RM50 to RM1,500. The article highlights the anticipation among fans and the importance of the event for both Manchester United and Malaysian football enthusiasts.
6. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/sports/2025/05/10/man-united-bring-full-squad-to-malaysia-for-asean-all-stars-showdown-at-bukit-jalil/176284> - The article reports that Manchester United will bring their full squad to Malaysia for the friendly match against the ASEAN All-Stars at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on May 28, 2025. Manager Rúben Amorim emphasized the importance of connecting with fans worldwide, especially after a challenging season. The match marks United's first appearance in Malaysia since 2009, with the team also scheduled to play against the Hong Kong national team on May 30.
7. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2025/04/09/pm-anwars-playful-dilemma-which-team-to-cheer-for-as-man-united-faces-asean-all-star-on-may-28/172406> - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed his intention to attend the pre-season match between Manchester United and the ASEAN All-Star at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on May 28, 2025. The article highlights the Prime Minister's playful dilemma, as he supports both teams, and his excitement for the upcoming match, which is expected to draw significant attention and attendance.