

N Korea grants TMJ special access to Pyongyang

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Johor Crown Prince Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim now has the privilege to travel directly to Pyongyang from Johor, at any time, following a meeting with the North Korean envoy Kim Yu Song yesterday.

"It is the highest honour as any other world leader will need to stop by in Beijing beforehand," read a message on the Johor Southern Tigers Facebook page, which often acts as a spokesperson for the Johor palace.

Tunku Ismail, who is also the Football Association Malaysia president, met Kim yesterday to discuss foreign relations and current affairs, as well as the upcoming Group B match of the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 qualifying final round.

The message also indicated that both countries pledge to ensure the safety of players and team officials.

North Korea will host Malaysia at the Kim Il-sung Stadium in Pyongyang. The second leg will see Malaysia hosting the visitors at the Tan Sri Dato' Haji Hassan Yunus Stadium, Johor Bahru on Nov 14.

Harimau Malaya is currently at the bottom of the table with one point after two games, with four more games remaining.

Apart from North Korea, the other teams on the table are Hong Kong and Lebanon.

The AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 tournament will take place in January 2019.

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