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MAHATHIR HOLDS TALKS WITH HUN SEN, PHAN VAN KHAI

By: Muin Abdul Majid

HANOI, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met his counterparts from Cambodia and Vietnam hours after arriving here for the Sixth Asean Summit which begins tomorrow.

Cambodia's Hun Sen called on Dr Mahathir at the hotel where the Malaysian leader is staying.

This was the first meeting between the two prime ministers since the establishment of a new coalition government in Phnom Penh headed by Hun Sen.

Cambodia's hope of joining Asean now lies in the hands of Asean leaders after the foreign ministers failed to reach consensus on its entry during their meeting last Friday.

Malaysia and Vietnam are among the countries reportedly in favour of the immediate admission of Cambodia, whose induction was suspended in July last year following a power struggle in Phnom Penh.

Dr Mahathir then called on Vietnam's Phan Van Khai at his office.

In between the two meetings, the Malaysian leader visited the Asean Exposition '98 which is being held at the Giang Vo Exhibition Hall in conjunction with the two-day summit.

-- BERNAMA

MAM YBY