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M'sia, Turkey united against terror

Najib: Intelligence exchange between nations is crucial

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ISTANBUL: Malaysia and Turkey agree that the threat of terrorism and extremism must be addressed in earnest and that the exchange of intelligence is necessary, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said Turkey, as the chairman of the 13th Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held here, had sought greater cooperation from all quarters to address this global issue.

Najib said this to Malaysian journalists after a bilateral meeting with Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the OIC summit here.

The summit began yesterday with leaders from 57 countries discussing matters related to unity of the ummah (Muslim brotherhood), Islamophobia, the threat posed by militants and the issue of Palestine.

Najib said he had conveyed Malaysia's sympathies to Erdogan over the bomb blasts triggered by militants in Istanbul and Ankara recently.

He added that Malaysia had requested Turkey, as the OIC chair-

man, to give attention to issues being faced in South-East Asia such as the plight of the Rohingya refugees and security in the southern Philippines.

"If the security situation in the area does not improve, cases of intrusion and abduction of Malaysians will continue to take place," he said.

On the Rohingya issue, Najib said Malaysia was burdened with more than 60,000 refugees and hoped that the matter could be addressed with the help of OIC.

"So long as the problem is not given serious attention by the Myanmar government for a long-term solution, it will remain a humanitarian problem.

"It is also a problem for the ummah and OIC must take up the issue," he added.

On trade between both countries, Najib said it had strengthened since the free trade agreement was signed in 2014.

He said bilateral trade value increased 48.4% last year and more effort must be put in to meet the target of US\$5bil (RM19.3bil) by 2020. — Bernama



Strengthening ties: Najib shaking hands with Erdogan during the OIC summit held at the Istanbul Congress Centre. — Bernama