

## **Mahathir meets Vietnamese counterpart**

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**From Saraswathi Muniappan**

SINGAPORE, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a bilateral meeting today with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit here.

This is the first meeting of the two leaders.

Relations between the two countries were established 45 years ago.

Vietnam is among Malaysia's important trading partners, with total trade in 2017 amounting to US\$11.7 billion (about RM48.97 billion), an increase of 13.9 per cent from 2016.

Malaysia is Vietnam's 13th largest trading partner in the world and the fourth in ASEAN after Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

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