

06/11/2002

Golden Age that will be Malaysia's

Wan Ahmad Shihab Ismial

I JOIN many proud Malaysians in applauding Bank Negara for having brought to life the Islamic Financial Services Board, which was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (NST, Nov 4).

It is indeed another milestone for Malaysia to have the honour of spearheading efforts to create comprehensive awareness and understanding of Islamic financial instruments for the Islamic capital market to grow.

This latest accomplishment is further testimony of the nation's ability to lead and be an example for other countries to follow.

That we have world endorsement to play a central role in combatting terrorism and the fact that we are rigorously pursuing the establishment of the Asean+3 secretariat in Kuala Lumpur is further evidence of the fact that we have come a long way from being an agricultural backwater nation.

What is happening now and in recent years will lead the future to be considered, I am certain, as Malaysia's "Golden Age".

It is arguable that the unprecedented growth and development as well as turmoil and challenges that this nation has faced and successfully managed in the past two decades make up an era that history will recognise as truly great.

The trouble with "Golden Ages" is that they are often recognised in retrospect. Those experiencing the days of glory often do not realise what they are going through until they look back, if at all such reflections are made during their lifetime.

This is likely why great civilisations succumb to mediocrity, for how