

July 18 declared as Union Pledge Day

ABU DHABI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday announced the designation of July 18 as Union Pledge Day.

“On this day in 1971, the Founding Father and his brothers the Rulers signed the declaration of the Union and the UAE Constitution while announcing the name of our country: the United Arab Emirates. In preparation for the nation’s establishment on December 2, it was a historic day on which they laid the foundations of the Union. Today, we declare July 18 as Union Pledge Day, a national occasion to celebrate the history of our country and the blessed journey towards establishing the Union,” Shaikh Mohammad said.

Historic milestone

Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, emphasised that Union Pledge Day is a historic milestone that marks the inception of the nation’s journey of unity and solidarity.

SEE ALSO P4



WAM

HAMDAN, ABDULLAH AND OTHER NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTERS SWORN IN

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with the ministers who were sworn in yesterday. Taking the oath were Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other newly appointed ministers in the UAE Cabinet. SEE ALSO P5

Canada to cut foreign student stay

MOVE PART OF PLAN TO SLOW IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

TORONTO

Canada is reviewing how many long-term visas it grants to foreign students, underscoring the government’s desire to slow immigration and population growth.

Federal and provincial officials have been discussing how to match labour market demand with international students, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said in a phone interview.

Although Canada has for

Earlier this year, Canada imposed a new cap on the number of international student visas it issues — it’s projecting fewer than 300,000 new student permits this year, down from about 437,000 last year.

years used universities and colleges to bring in educated, working-age immigrants, study visas shouldn’t imply a guarantee of future residency or citizenship, he said.

“That should never be the promise. People should be coming here to educate themselves and perhaps go home and bring

those skills back to their country,” he said. “That hasn’t always been the recent case.”

Earlier this year, Canada imposed a new cap on the number of international student visas it issues — it’s projecting fewer than 300,000 new student permits this year, down from about 437,000 last year.

The Canadian government plans to suspend processing of study permits from post-secondary students if the schools fail to keep track of international students’ enrolment, reports said. The proposed regulations would compel colleges and universities to report to the federal Immigration Department whether a student is attending school and complying with all study permit requirements.

The move is part of recent attempts to restore confidence in Canada’s international student programme.

—Bloomberg

WORLD

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MIDDLE EAST

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Aishwarya Lekshmi
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