The following the full text of the Press Release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on UN Human Rights Council’s resolution calling for the dispatch of an international Fact Finding Mission to Myanmar.

The resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar tabled by the European Union was adopted without a vote at the meeting of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), held on 24 March 2017 in Geneva.

In the resolution, the Human Rights Council welcomes the progress made by Myanmar towards achieving political and economic reform, democratization, national reconciliation, good governance and the rule of law, as well as its efforts to promote and protect human rights and combat corruption. At the same time, the HRC resolved to dispatch an independent international Fact Finding Mission to Myanmar.

Myanmar has been making every effort to seek practi- cal and lasting solutions to the deep-rooted and challenging situation in Rakhine State. Within weeks of taking office, the government established the Central Committee on Rakhine to promote peace, stability and development in the State. An independent advisory commission headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was also set up to assist the government in finding long-term solutions.

In response to the armed attacks on police border outposts and headquarters in October and November 2016 and subsequent allegations of human rights abuses, the government formed an Investigation Commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe to look into the causes of those incidents and allegations.

The government takes allegations of human rights abuses seriously. The Commission has spent several weeks visiting affected areas of Rakhine State and has just returned from its investigatory trip to Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Where there are credible allegations of abuses, witnesses will be invited to travel to Myanmar under international protection to give evidence in legal proceedings in open court.

The situation on the ground is both complex and challenging. The establishment of an international Fact Finding Mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time. It is also not in accord with the situation on ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government’s very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole. A number of the HRC member countries including China and India have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such mission.

The government of Myanmar is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. It will be steadfast in its commitment to advancing human rights for the benefit of all people in Myanmar. To this effect, the government will set out a clear action plan for the prompt implementation of the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in its interim report last week.

—Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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**Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw visits famous pagoda in MraukU**

DEPUTY Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung visited the site of a Vesali ancient city wall after he donated meals, drinking water and cash to the Mannagpar historic Mingalar- manaung Pagoda, Htukkanthein temple, Shite-Thaung temple (temple of the 80,000 images of the Buddha), Vesali wish-fulfilled Buddha image, and Na-phuthinkyiitaw Buddha Image in MraukU in Rakhine State on Thursday.

The Deputy Speaker met with the township administrator, district departmental officers and the heads of the villages and local residents and shared his experience in Htuttaw.

Then he listened to local residents and answered their questions.

The Deputy Speaker made an address yesterday at the ceremony of the 150th anniversary of Minbya Town held by the football ground in Minbya town in Rakhine State where Rakhine State Chief Minister and ministers, Member of Parliament, Departmental heads and civil servants, community elders and local residents were present.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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**No paid pandals at 2017 Thingyan**

U PHYO MIN THEIN, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Cabinet, said that commercial water-throwing entertainment pandals to which entry requires monetary payment will not be allowed in next month’s Thingyan Festival.

“The Thingyan Festival is the occasion when Myanmar people transition into the New Year, cleansing misguided and evil deeds done in the previous year. So, the occasion is assumed to be an auspicious festival for Myanmar people.

“Selling tickets profitably for joining the water-throwing entertain- ment pandals will not be permitted.”

Also, dressing in indecent clothing and public intoxication will be prohibited during the festival days, he added at a news conference held at the Office of Yangon Region Cabinet yesterday.

It has been learnt that a free, public central water-throwing entertainment pandal in front of City Hall and four other central water-throwing pandals in four districts will be built, instead of being crowded in one place, as in previous years.

And, according to the Yangon Region Cabinet, water-throwing pandals will not be permitted to be built on Inya Road and along Kandawgyi Circular Road so as not to cause traffic-jams.

Provided that anyone who would like to build water-throwing entertainment pandals in privately owned places like Shwe Htut Tin grounds, they are required to apply for permission to the Region Cabinet, which will grant permits in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations”, U Phyo Min Thein said.

Those who want to build entertainment pandals privately- owned land must abide by the regulations that include arranging emergency exits, ensuring security affairs, and making arrangements so that traffic jams do not occur, said Naw Pan Thinzha Mys, minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs of Yangon Region Cabinet.

During the 2017 Myanmar Traditional Festival, Myanmar Traditional Dance, Beauty, Decorative Entertainment Vehicles and Myanmar Satire-like recitals (Thangyi) highlighting the irony found in the political arena will be granted according to the prescribed rules and regulations.

In Yangon Region, for people to have a good time during the festival period, Myanmar Police Force will ensure the security of the pandals and the management of Yangon Region Cabinet.

Bus lines will run during these days for the people to conveniently travel, as usual. If illegal extra fares are charged, the passengers can make complaints to the Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority, according to Yangon Region Cabinet.

So as not to cause traffic jams and for security, building commercial water-throwing pandals and profitable entertainment pandals were not permitted in 2016 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, it was learnt.

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**Heroin, stimulant pills seized in Lashio and Momeik**

STIMULANT pills and heroin were seized in Lashio and Momeik on Thursday respectively.

A local anti-drug squad in Lashio stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Tho Nan on the road of Falain village, Kaung Ky Ei village-tract, Lashio Township on 23 March and seized 740 g of heroin in 61 soap cups and 74,100 pills of stimulant hidden in the vehicle.

Likewise, an anti-drug squad in Momeik seized 3,098 stimulant pills during a search of the house owned by Win Hlaing in Dhaung- gyi village, Momeik Township the same day.

Tun Lin Naing, the son of Win Hlaing was found in the house during the search and was arrested. Action has been taken against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*