

Burmese barred from entering Mae Sai

Mae Sai, Chiang Rai — Thai border authorities yesterday turned back several hundred Burmese nationals who tried to enter this border town illegally to purchase food and other necessities.

The Burmese flocked to the Thai gate on the bridge spanning the Mae Sai River after Burmese authorities at Tachilek opened their side to allow people to cross into Thailand.

The gate on the Thai side remained closed, forcing the Burmese to wait.

Burmese authorities had closed their side since the current anti-government unrest began.

SECURITY

Talks were held between Tachilek and Thai officials to open the bridge, but was turned down by the Thai side for security reasons.

Thai officials told their Burmese counterparts that it was Interior Ministry policy to shut the border due to the current instability in Burma.

But they told the Burmese officials that Thailand would reopen the border at Mae Sai some time after September 12.

Burmese merchants, villagers and students who waited at the gate yesterday were told to try again later.

Sources said there is a food shortage in Tachilek where an egg now sells for four baht.

Meanwhile, student leaders at Tachilek said students from Kengtung would join them within the next few days.

The students also said they welcomed arms from rebel leader Gen Bo Mya, who they said had offered them guns.

Writers to form union

Rangoon (AFP) — A group of writers, poets, journalists and academics announced that they planned to form a union on Sunday and a group of veterans said they had resigned from the ruling party en masse and turned in their party cards.

Students, dock workers and young monks have formed unions in a wave of renewed political consciousness in Burma, where the party has been the only political organization permitted since 1962.

ing in Rangoon

say analysts

hardened 77th Light Infantry Division. He said the unit was moved out of Rangoon shortly after massive anti-government demonstrations began last month, apparently because senior commanders believed the unit would be unwilling to fire on unarmed fellow Burmese.

Another diplomatic report cited some mistrust between the army troops at Hmawbi and the 502nd Air Squadron based in the same town.

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