

Burmese border protest in doubt

BPS8C907

Mae Sai — Planned anti-government demonstrations and a general strike in Burma's border district of Thachilek today and tomorrow may be cancelled, apparently because of threats from the Burmese military, sources said yesterday.

Burmese soldiers, deployed in Thachilek opposite here, have made "unusual moves" to thwart student-led protests because an unidentified government official was expected to visit the district tomorrow, sources quoted a Burmese student leader as saying.

Burmese soldiers were seen repairing a road between a local airport and downtown Thachilek, while students were ordered not to call any anti-government demonstrations, they said.

Rumours were spreading in the border district that the Burmese military would stage a coup if protests continue in Burma.

Meanwhile, authorities here have indefinitely sealed the Thai border with Thachilek, barring Thais from crossing. The Mae Sai-Thachilek border has been closed since the end of last month.

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