

Publicity sought for Burmese struggle

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BURMESE students have asked Thai universities to publicise their struggle for democracy and human rights, the president of Chulalongkorn's Student Government Organisation said yesterday.

Border units in Mae Sai placed on full alert

Mae Sai, Chiang Rai — Border units opposite the Burmese town of Tachilek were ordered yesterday to be on full alert amid fears of cross-border incidents.

Mae Sai district officer Chai Chaiyanond, director of the Thai-Burmese border command centre, issued the order to the Border Patrol Police, provincial police, immigration police and customs officials.

Hundreds of Burmese troops moved into Tachilek on Saturday night from Dakha Camp, 85km to the north.

The troops were seen repairing the road from Tachilek to the airfield, about 10 km away.

While the Mae Sai border pass has been closed since August 31, Burmese have continued to cross over to buy necessities at prices which have doubled.

According to students who came to Mae Sai yesterday, protesters will rally again in Thachilek today.

Anusorn Thamchai said contacts began on August 18 when three Rangoon University students accompanied by a Burmese resident who acted as an interpreter, visited him at Chulalongkorn University.

The students said they wanted Thai students to support their campaign against the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party by spreading news of developments in their country through embassies in Thailand.

The Burmese also wanted to know more about Thai student struggles, and particularly the October 14, 1973 uprising, and the October 6, 1976 massacre.

Mr Anusorn told the visitors students could help only by submitting an appeal through the Burmese Embassy.

He was uncertain how Thai students could help since Thailand still recognises the Burmese government.

The Burmese, he said, gave conflicting details on several matters, in particular their journey on foot from Shan State into Tak province.

The Thai students met to consider the requests and decided against taking any action since they did not have a thorough

understanding of the situation in Burma, he said.

Thammasat University Student Organisation president Prasert Kijsuwanrat said he too had been contacted by Burmese students but did not take any action because he was unsure of their status.

ADVICE

A Ramkhamhaeng University student said Burmese students asked for advice and support and requested Thai students help lay down plans for their activities against the Burmese government.

Students at Chiang Mai, Chulalongkorn, Thammasat and Ramkhamhaeng universities were approached by different groups of Burmese students with the help of Burmese people in Thailand, he said.

Thai students of various institutes, after exchanges of opinions, agreed that they could not interfere in the internal affairs of Burma.

"What we could do is to publicise news on the struggle by Burmese students among ASEAN students," he said.

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