

Mae Sai alert for escaped prisoners

Mae Sai — Immigration and border officials here were ordered to watch out for about 40 Chinese released from a Kengtung prison in the Shan State of Burma on Thursday, an official source said.

The ex-prisoners escaped from Yunnan in China some years ago before being arrested by Burmese soldiers in the state.

Thai authorities said the group reportedly headed to Tachilek and were suspected of intending to sneak into Thailand.

Another report said Burmese troops yesterday released some 45 Bur-

mese activists from detention in Tachilek. Fifteen student leaders were still held at the local police station.

A student activist from Rangoon is currently detained in a military camp.

The report said the Tachilek troops also summoned 18 Buddhist monks to sign an agreement not to lead protests against the government officials in the border town opposite Chiang Rai Province.

Early yesterday Thai villagers heard the sound of gunfire and grenade explosions in Tachilek for about 20 minutes. The cause was not known.

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