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Karens in bid to retake camp

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KAREN rebels said yesterday they expect to retake a base after attacking a 300-strong Burmese army unit opposite Tha Song Yang district in Tak province yesterday.

A Karen spokesman said rebel forces had taken two outposts of the Mae Ta Woh Yang base and had captured two Burmese soldiers and seven guns.

The bid to recapture the camp, which fell to government forces in January 1984, began at 2 a.m. and was continuing last night.

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● Two Burmese rebels were killed in a clash with Burmese soldiers near the airstrip of Thachilek border township inside Burma last Friday, Thai sources said yesterday.

Fighting erupted at about 1 a.m. when a Burmese patrol unit came across a joint Wa National Army (WNA) and Burmese Communist Party (BCP) force near the airstrip, some 15 kilometres from Mae Sai of Chiang Rai.

The source said the rebels were trying to attack the runway but failed after two were killed in the fighting.

The Burmese soldiers seized two AK-47 rifles from the slain rebels.

Last Thursday, 100 parents of Burmese students detained by Burmese soldiers in Thachilek staged a protest.

Soldiers explained the demonstration because the students were carrying arms from a foreign country.