

Villagers return to border pass

MORE than 100 Kan-
chanaburi villagers have
returned to their border
community after the mili-
tary promised to protect
them amid clashes be-
tween Burmese mi-
norities.

The villagers were
among 500 who fled Ban
Phra Chedi Sam-ong
(Three Pagoda Pass) two
months ago when Karen
and Mon guerrillas start-
ed fighting for control of

the lucrative black mar-
ket at the Burmese border
pass.

Troops have cleared the
area of landmines and
booby traps but several
houses were damaged
during the fighting.

The Burmese part of
the black market remains
closed although the war-
ring factions have agreed
on a ceasefire and have
pulled back one kilometre
either side of the market.

CA/1088/11/1001