



IMAGES: Children, left and inset, amid the scenes of devastation in Thuri Park in photographs taken by Bradford man Yousaf Razaq

Yousaf's bid to help families

by **SUNITA BHATTI**
 &A Reporter

Bradford charity worker is trying to ensure that survivors of the South Asian earthquake survive through the harsh winter. Yousaf Razaq, a project co-ordinator for the Bradford-based Human Relief Foundation (HRF), has spent six weeks working in the region setting up shelters. HRF is working with charities to provide a tented village for thousands of survivors to live in over the next six months. At first the village in Thuri Park, in the district of Muzaffarabad, was expected to house 4,000 people but the United Nations has limited this to 2,116 people due to health and safety regulations.

However, without extra funds the charity will not be able to maintain the village for the next six months. Mr Razaq has estimated that the cost of keeping the village going each month is up to £12,000 and he is hoping Bradford residents will supply funds. "These are the figures that we need to keep this village going and we would like the communities of Bradford to help us to keep helping the villagers," he said.

Last week United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited the village with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

Speaking to the villagers, Mr Annan said: "After what I have seen today I am both impressed

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

You can make a donation to the appeal through any branch of the HSBC bank which should be paid into:

T&A South Asian Earthquake Appeal, Account No: 33924556 branch sort code 40-13-15

You can also send cheques or postal orders *c/o Anne Dransfield, Editor's Secretary, Telegraph & Argus, Hall Ings, Bradford, BD1 1JR.* Cheques should be made payable to: **T&A South Asian Earthquake Appeal.**

and depressed: depressed by the number of houses destroyed and the need to rebuild, but impressed by the level of co-operation and the determination that I have seen."

The village now not only has a clean water supply but it also has an operational school and a health centre staffed by two doctors.

But the main priority for all of the charities working in the area is still to provide shelter to protect people from the cold.

Mr Razaq has continued to put off his return to Bradford until he is certain that the needs of the villagers will continue to be met. HRF can be contacted on 08700 117 112.

e-mail: sunita.bhatti@bradfordnewsquest.co.uk