

BRADFORD PEOPLE RAISE CA

# 'I'm in total shock, they need so much help'

by **SUNITA BHATTI**

T&A Reporter

Big-hearted Bradford residents who have responded to the call for help after the earthquake in South Asia have been speaking to the Telegraph & Argus about their attempts to get aid to victims.

Businessman Aftab Iqbal flew to Pakistan at the weekend armed with £30,000 collected from friends, family and local businesses.

He had to travel 260 miles from Islamabad to Lahore to purchase supplies.

Mr Iqbal has so far bought 500 tents, 500 blankets, some clothes and basic food supplies.

He said he had been struck not only by the devastation but also the number of children abandoned in hospitals in need of treatment.

"I haven't slept for the last two days because of it," he said.

Mr Iqbal plans to take his supplies to the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir region in the next couple of days. He has been told snow is already starting to settle in this region which could hamper relief efforts.

Once all of the aid has gone Mr Iqbal is planning to return to Islamabad to pay for medical treatment for some of the children who are suffering.

"I'm in total shock," he said. "They need help to get back on their feet and back with their families."

Mahommed Zafoor, 27, flew to Islamabad with £40,000 collected from friends and family.

He then travelled to Ballakot to hand out tents and blankets.

Mr Zafoor said the area, which was probably home to 30,000-40,000 people had been devastated.

He said aid was slowing down as people looked towards making long-term plans to rebuild the region.

"There is a limit to how much can be done but first and foremost there needs



**HELPING HAND:** Bradford man Mahommed Zafoor is in the region providing aid to victims

to be a clear-up operation," he said.

Bradford-based charity the Human Relief Foundation flew a team of five to Pakistan over the weekend.

Project co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq said they had been out with volunteers trying to buy supplies before heading to Muzaffrabad in a couple of days.

The charity is hoping to set up a campsite with running water for around 4,000.

Yesterday the team planned to take much-needed medical supplies to Abbottabad.

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