

**63RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

**1-8 November 2017**

**THEME: “*Continuing to enhance high standards of performance of Parliamentarians*.”**

**CPA Wales Delegation**

**Mohammad Asghar AM (Oscar)**



Photo: Mohammad Asghar AM outside the Bangladeshi Parliament Building, Dhaka

63rd CPC, Bangladesh – Report Notes by Mohammad Asghar AM

 Sunday 5 November 2017

* Attended Official Opening of the 63rd CPC
* Spoke during the ensuing discussion on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis
* Delegates agreed to take steps to try to sort out this issue
* Interviewed by Bangladesh Media and interview shown on mainstream television.

Monday 6 November 2017

* Attended Workshop B on the role of Parliamentarians in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth
* Spoke on the work being done in Wales to strengthen such links
* Stressed the need to improve trade and cultural links especially with those countries new to democracy
* Contribution well received
* Attended Workshop E on Critical Mass: Small jurisdictions and big problems-Logistics and infrastructure challenges
* Spoke on the devolved areas and competence of the Assembly
* Stressed that the National Assembly is still evolving following the Government of Wales Act
* Countries raised points regarding difficulty their Parliamentarians have in getting UK visas
* Fast track programme for Visas to be considered

Tuesday 7 November 2017

* Attended General Assembly and Election of Chairperson of the Executive Committee
* Supported UK backed candidate from Pacific Region who was unsuccessful
* Felt the UK appears to have lost influence in the Commonwealth and links need to be improved

I wish to record my thanks to Al Davies for all the help and support provided before and during this visit.

Mohammad Asghar AM
29 November 2017