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Mr. Syed Ashfaqul Haque
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By Hand Delivery
And by Email: editor@thedailystar.net; reporting@thedailystar.net

27 July 2023

Our ref: AHKC/Adv/202307121

Our client: Mr. Mohammad Saiful Alam, Group Chairman, S Alam Group (“**Our Client**”).

Dear Sir,

Ref: Your letter dated 23 July 2023 (“**Your Second Letter**”)

We are instructed by Our Client named above.

Your Second Letter does not provide any justification for continuing to seek answers to the several questions from Our Client raised in your earlier letter dated 13 July 2023 (“**Your First Letter**”). We maintain that The Daily Star is not entitled to any of the information from Our Client.

In the first, second and third paragraphs of Your Second Letter you refer to “*our findings*”, “*The findings contained in our report*” and “... *the most vital findings of our report...*”. We re-iterate that without disclosure of your so-called report with your alleged **findings**, it is impossible for Our Client to address them. Your assertion that Our Client has been “*provided ... with an opportunity to respond ...*” is extremely unfair. We note that yet again you have failed or refused to disclose your report with your so-called findings to Our Client.

Further, Your Second Letter wrongly asserts that Our Client “*has refused the opportunity to our offer to respond ...*”. This assertion is incorrect as Our Client’s position is that (i) The Daily Star is not entitled to ask for the confidential personal and business information relating to Our Client or his businesses and (ii) he cannot respond to the so-called findings in your report without disclosure of the allegations contained therein.

Ajmalul Hossain KC, Barrister & Senior Advocate

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It is clear and obvious that the Daily Star will be making allegations against Our Client. Again, we state that it is unfair and unjust to seek responses without squarely raising the allegations against Our Client that The Daily Star wishes to publish.

Your Second Letter refers to “*authentic sources*” from which your findings are derived. Our Client does not know what sources you are referring to but reserves his right to challenge The Daily Star if any source is referred to which is not part the governmental agencies of Bangladesh or of any of the countries you mention.

In our letter dated 13 July 2023, we have referred to Our Client’s constitutional and legal rights which contrast with the “*fundamental principle of the people’s right to know*” stated in Your Second Letter. The above-quoted principle relied upon by you is not a legal principle and in any event is subject to the restrictions and limitations in Our Client’s constitutional and legal rights which are enforceable.

We once again invite The Daily Star to provide the report or at least the findings and allegations that it contains to Our Client for his comments. We respectfully contend that such an approach will be consistent with the proper ethics and practice of journalism.

Our Client reserves his right to take any action available in law against The Daily Star to enforce his constitutional and legal rights.

Yours faithfully

Ajmalul Hossain KC
Senior Advocate