

Selling Crime, Criminals and Commercializing Social Panic: A Case in Bangladesh

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This study investigates news and editorials appearing in the *Daily Star* in the context of covering crime and criminal issues. By drawing upon some major criminal issues occurring in Bangladesh, which all appeared in the *Daily Star* (DS), a mainstream and highly circulated English daily published in Bangladesh, this study discusses how crime news coverage is linked to commercialization, and how elite interests are preserved in that coverage. It argues that this newspaper continuously constructs a good image of the elite but marginalizes ordinary people. This study further argues that, despite both powerful and 'powerless' citizens being involved in similar 'criminal' activity, and the latter receiving shelter from the powerful elite, the powerful class receives a good image in the media while the powerless receive a 'criminal' image.

Keywords: *crime, commercialization, power elite, agenda, social discourse*