desh, *ganabahini*, *muktijoddha/muktifouz* and *joy Bangla*. Instead of *muktijoddha/muktifouz* the dictator advised to use the word 'rebel' or 'Indian agents'.

The occupiers took over the daily national newspapers but a few were running independently denying the dictator's censorship. And a few were running from Mujibnagar and different places in India, including Calcutta. Among them the most popular newspapers were – *The Daily Ajadi* published from Chittagong and considered as one of the first newspapers that appeared just after independence on December 17, *Banglar Bani* a well written newspaper published from Calcutta, *Joy Bangla* from Naogaon, *Joybangla* a mouthpiece of Awami League published from Mujibnagar, Muktijuddho a mouthpiece of the Communist Party Bangladesh, *Jagroto Bangla, Shangrami Bangla, Shadhin Bangla, Shonar Bangla, Desh Bangla, Notun Bangla, Shaptahik Bangla, Durjoy Bangla, Mukta Bangla, Biplobi Bangla, Ronagon, Dabanol, Agradut and Janmabhumi.*


দৈনিক আজাদী

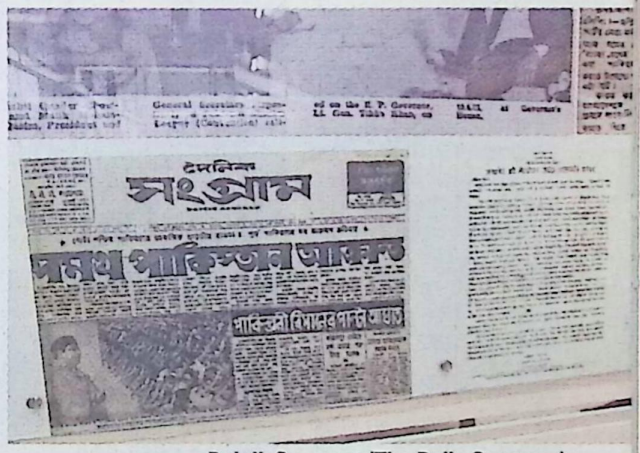
জয় বাংলা, বাংলার জয়

বাংলা দেশ দখলদার পাক সেনাবাহিনীর আত্মসমর্পণ

'Joy Bangla, Banglar Joy' – the headline in *Dainik Azadi*.

Most of these newspapers were printed in cyclostyle, a duplicating process of stencil copying with the help of small-toothed wheels on a special paper, which serves as a printing form. Most of the newspapers and periodicals were two to eight pages, printed in a single colour. The content was mostly sketches of war scenarios in Bangladesh depicting the struggle of people and news of victory of the freedom fighters. The newspapers, periodicals and journals, articles, comments and editorials were a huge source of inspiration for the common people.

Ironically, during the war *The Daily Sangram*, the lone newspaper known as the mouthpiece of Jamaat-e-Islami, carried evidence enough to expose Jamaat's anti-liberation roles. For that reason *Sangram* has been used as one of the major sources of evidence against the war criminals. During the war, the paper was used as a tool of black propaganda to break the spirit of the common people who were supporting the freedom fighters. For instance, an issue of the *Sangram* published on September 15, 1971 quoted Motiur


দৈনিক সংগ্রাম

Dainik Sangram (The Daily Sangram)

Rahman Nizami, also the then commander-in-chief of Al Badr, as saying: "Every one of us should assume the role of a soldier of an Islamic country. With assistance of the poor and the oppressed, we must kill those who are engaged in the war against Pakistan and Islam."

The same newspaper on the third page of its September 16, 1971 issue ran another report headlined "No force on earth will be able to destroy Pakistan". In the news report, Motiur Rahman Nizami called on people to face a conspiracy of the so-called *Banga Daradi* (Lover of Bengal). Although *Sangram* got huge financial backup from the military dictator it failed to manufacture a hegemonic consent in the country. Even though the number of readers was very low, from the headline to the editorial, the news format was designed in a way that people regarded it as their hope and source of news of the war. Forty three years has passed away but the heroic efforts of those newspapers continue to inspire the journalists of today's Bangladesh. ■