

Ducsu to celebrate 'Adi Noboborsho Utsab' at DU

Sat Nov 15, 2025 03:41 AM

Last update on: Sat Nov 15, 2025 05:01 AM



Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) is set to celebrate Nabanna Utsab as "Adi Noboborsho Utsab" on Pahela Agrahayan at the university's Faculty of Fine Arts.

In a joint initiative with Biplobi Sangskritik Oikya, Ducsu will organise a daylong programme on the first day of Agrahayan (November 16) at the Fine Arts faculty, Ducsu Literature and Culture Secretary Musaddiq Ali Ibne Mohammad told The Daily Star.

According to a press release, the younger generation is gradually forgetting that Pahela Agrahayan was once observed as the Bangla New Year in this region.

"To remind today's youth of that history, we have taken the initiative to celebrate Nabanna Utsab as the 'Adi Noboborsho Utsab'," it said.

The release said Bangla New Year festivities have existed in this region since ancient times, with historians identifying the "Amani or Nabanna festival" held on Pahela Agrahayan as the earliest form of New Year celebrations.

"During Emperor Akbar's reign, Baishakh was introduced as the first month of the Bangla year to streamline revenue collection, but Bangalees did not immediately begin celebrating Pahela Baishakh as the start of the year," it added.

"The modern celebration of Pahela Baishakh as Bangla New Year began in the early 19th century with Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore later organised grand festivities at Santiniketan, which were gradually adopted by educated middle-class Bangalee families in Kolkata. In Bangladesh, Pahela Baishakh was first celebrated in 1967," said the press release.

"As the Pakistani authorities opposed the celebrations, they grew more popular among Bangalees with anti-Pakistani sentiments."

Every year, the Faculty of Fine Arts at DU marks Nabanna Utsab with colourful rallies and cultural performances.