



Tajhat Palace, Tajhat Rajbari, is a historic palace of Bangladesh, located in Tajhat, Rangpur. This palace now holds the Rangpur museum. Tajhat Palace is situated three km. south-east of the city of Rangpur, on the outskirts of town.

#### Structure:

The palace, with about 76 metres frontage, rises two storeys and faces east. An imposing broad staircase in the centre, paved with imported white marble, leads directly above the portico to the upper storey.

The palace is crowned by a ribbed conical dome in the centre of the roof with a tall octagonal neck, partly supported on a series of slender semi-Corinthian columns. The balustrade on either side of the imposing staircase was originally embellished with various sculptures of classical Roman figures in Italian marble, but now these are missing. There are two semi-octagonal projections at each end of the front face

and a central projecting porch. The balcony roof above the porch is carried on four graceful Corinthian columns with round shafts, while two similar columns on each of the projecting ends of the building support a triangular gable.

The palace is laid out in the form on a "U", with its open end to the west. Beyond the entrance at ground-floor level there is a very large hall, measuring more than 18 x 13 meters. A 3 meter wide corridor runs the entire length of the inner block. Two broad wooden staircases provide access to the upper floor. There are about 22 apartments on two floors.



About 76 meters long, 2 stories of the edifice, The Tajhat Palace has a spectacular front look. A ribbed conical dome supported by using a tall octagonal neck is positioned in the middle of the roof and crowns the palace. The railing initially featured marble sculptures of conventional Roman figures, those have disappeared since long back.

These are just some of the superb aspects that continue to attract visitors from around the world to this small corner of the earth. This 100-year-old palace is truly a superstructure and visitors often discover themselves astonished by the details of craftsmanship that is found in every corner of this edifice.

The material, white stones, marbles stone, limestone and redbrick were used to build this magnificent palace were imported from different parts of the subcontinent. There were 2000 people worked together to build this royal palace and spent almost 1.5 million USD the then time.

#### History:

The palace was built by Maharaja Kumar Gopal Lal Roy in the beginning of the 20th century. It is believed that from the conspicuous appearance of his *Taj* or jeweled crown, his estate derived the name of Tajhat.

From 1984 to 1991 the palace was used as a Rangpur High Court Branch of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. In 1995 the palace was declared as a protected monument by the Department of Archaeology.

Recognizing its outstanding architectural value the Government of Bangladesh shifted the Rangpur Museum to the second floor of the palace in 2005. The main room at the top of the marble stairs have a number of display cases which show 10th–11th century terracotta artifacts. There are a number of fine examples of Sanskrit and Arabic manuscripts, including copies of the Mahabharat, Ramayan, and a Quran whose provenance is attributed to none other than the Mughal Aurangzeb. The back rooms have several examples of black stone Hindu carvings in its back rooms, mainly of the deity Vishnu. Photography is not permitted in the museum itself.



The name Tajhat came from where? No one knows exactly but, the historian says that Gopal Lal Roy was a jeweler by profession who migrated from Panjab up to Rangpur and made his fortune here. As was a jeweler and he worked with the golden “Taj” means crown and “hat” means Local Bazar. Later he became the Zamindar of Tajhat estate as A minor after his father passed away.

This palace also was a place to celebrate the Pahela Baishak (Bengali New Year) along with the “Bau Mela” (fair of wives) for women. There was another type of festival was celebrated in this palace called “Kite Festival” for the children during the Pahela Baishak (the first two days of Bengali new year).



## Opening and closing time of Tajhat Palace



From 10.00 am to 06.00 pm, Tajhat Palace is open for the visitors 7 days a week. However, the museum located on the 1st floor of the palace has a timetable as below. Only on Sunday, the museum will remain closed but the palace will remain open all the time.

### Summer timing ( April – September )

Tuesday - Saturday : 10 . 00 AM - 01 . 00 PM and 01 . 30 PM - 06 . 00 PM

Friday : 10 . 00 AM - 12 . 30 PM and 02 . 30 PM – 06 . 00 PM

sunday : Weekly Holiday

Monday : 02 . 30 PM - 06 . 00 PM

### **Winter timing ( October – March )**

Tuesday - Saturday : 09 . 00 AM - 01 . 00 PM and 01 . 30 PM - 05 . 00 PM

Friday : 09 . 00 AM - 12 . 30 PM and 02 . 00 PM - 05 . 00 PM

Sunday : Weekly Holiday

Monday : 01 . 30 PM - 05 . 00 PM