

## Bangladeshi passport down to 97th spot globally

-A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Bangladeshi passport ranked 97th globally, down one position from the last quarter of 2023, as per the 2024 edition of Henley Passport Index, sharing the spot with North Korea, a country virtually isolated from the rest of the world.

The latest edition of the Passport Index-published on January 9-features a total of 104 spots with some countries' passports sharing the same ranking. The ranking is based on the number of destinations passport holders can access without a prior visa.

According to the 2024 Henley Passport Index, a Bangladeshi passport entitles visa-free travel to 42 destinations. In South Asia, the Bangladeshi passport fared better compared to that of Nepal (98), Pakistan (101) and Afghanistan (104). Maldives' passport ranked at 58, becoming the strongest in South Asia with visa-free access to 94 countries. India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka's passports ranked at 80th, 87th

and 96th respectively.

An unprecedented six countries share the top spot for the most desirable travel documents in 2024. Citizens of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain now have access to visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to a staggering 194 destinations worldwide. This figure marks the highest count recorded since the Henley Passport Index began monitoring global travel freedoms 19 years ago, according to reports.

Apart from those 6 countries who share the top spot, other countries sharing the top five rankings in the Henley Passport Index are: Finland, South Korea, Sweden in the second spot with visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 193 countries; Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands sharing the third spot with visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 192 countries; Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal United Kingdom in fourth spot with visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 191 countries; Greece, Malta, and Switzerland in the fifth spot with visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to 190 destinations.