## Sri Lanka revokes Adani wind power pricing agreement, forms review committee

PTI, COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government on Saturday said it has revoked the pricing agreement for Adani Group's wind power projects in the island nation and appointed a committee to review them.

Government spokesperson Nalinda Jayathissa clarified that while the Adani Green Energy wind power projects in Mannar and Pooneryn districts have not been cancelled, the government has rejected the power purchase prices negotiated by the previous administration in 2023.

There was no decision to cancel the Mannar and Pooneryn projects, but rather to appoint a committee to review them. The committee has started its work, and once the review is complete, we will determine what changes need to be made,

The previous government, led by Ranil Wickremesinghe, signed a 20-year power purchase agreement in May 2024 for the 484 MW Adani wind plants at a rate of USD 0.826 per unit. The agreement faced criticism as local bidders reportedly offered lower unit prices.

We are not agreeable to the prices proposed. As a result, the pricing agreement was revoked, and the committee was tasked with revising the projects, including its pricing structure, Jayathissa added.

He also said five court cases, mostly filed by environmental organisations, are pending against the agreement with the Indian conglomerate Adani Group. Environmental groups

had filed petitions claiming

that the projects endanger biodiversity and pose a threat to migratory birds.

Earlier on Friday, the Adani Group in a media statement denied reports of cancellation of its wind projects in Sri Lanka, terming them as "false and misleading".

"Reports that Adani's 484 MW wind power projects in Mannar and Pooneryn have been cancelled are false and misleading. We categorically state that the project has not been cancelled," it said.

The Sri Lankan Cabinet's decision of Jan 2 to reevaluate the tariff approved in May 2024 is "part of a standard review process, particularly with a new government, to ensure that the terms align with their current priorities and energy policies", the statement said.



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## Awami League won't be allowed to contest B'desh polls: Yunus' key adviser

PTI, DHAKA: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League would not be allowed to participate in elections, a key adviser of Muhammad Yunus's interim government said on Saturday.

"The elections will be contested among pro-Bangladesh groups only," said Mahfuz Alam, a top leader of the Anti-Discrimination Movement, which spearheaded the mass uprising that toppled Hasina's Awami League regime and forced her to flee the country on August 5 last year.

Addressing a street rally at central Chandpur district, Alam said only former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islam and other "pro-Bangladesh" groups would carry on their politics in the run at home and abroad.

the country. He added that either of these "will establish future governance through a fair electoral process".

"But Awami League's rehabilitation will not be allowed in this country," said Alam, a de facto minister without portfolio in Chief Adviser Yunus's administration.

Alam stated that no election would take place until "minimum reforms" were implemented and institutions, allegedly destroyed by the "fascist Hasina government," were restructured.

The Awami League has been virtually out of the open political landscape since August 5, 2024, with most of its leaders and Hasina's cabinet members either in jail on murder and other criminal charges or on

## Pak court awards death sentence to 4 over blasphemous content on FB

PTI. LAHORE: A Pakistani court has awarded the death sentence to four men for uploading blasphemous content on Facebook, an official said on Saturday.

Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Tariq Ayub on Friday convicted Wajid Ali, Ahfaq Ali Saqib, Rana Usman and Suleman Sajid for insulting the Prophet.

The court official said the convicts uploaded blasphemous content on Facebook from four different IDs.

The judge after hearing arguments of both prosecution and defence

and witnesses accounts awarded the death penalty and 80 years imprisonment to each of them on different counts," the official said.

They were also slapped with a fine of PKR 5.2 million.

Pakistan's Federal Investigation (FIA) Cybercrime registered a case under the PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) and Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Shiraz Farooqi, a citizen.



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