

INTERNATIONAL

US not seeking regime change in Venezuela

Says Trump, ties Maduro to drug trafficking

REUTERS, Washington

The United States is not talking about regime change in Venezuela, President Donald Trump said on Friday, as the United States ordered an additional 10 stealth fighter jets to a military buildup in the Caribbean.

"We're not talking about that, but we are talking about the fact that you had an election which was a very strange election, to put it mildly," Trump said, referring to the contested 2024 election the Venezuelan government says President Nicolas Maduro won.

Trump had been asked by reporters about a claim Maduro has made this week that the United States was



seeking "regime change through military threat."

"The government of the United States should abandon its plan of violent regime change in Venezuela and in all of Latin America and respect sovereignty, the right to peace, to independence," Maduro said on state television.

"I respect Trump. None of the differences we've had can lead to a military conflict," Maduro added. "Venezuela has always been willing to converse, to dialogue."

Trump demonstrated his new approach to fighting the drug war with a US military strike on Tuesday that killed 11 people and sank a boat from Venezuela which Trump said was transporting illegal narcotics.

Japan PM Ishiba to resign after series of polls losses

Rising living costs stoked voter backlash

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday he had decided to resign, ushering in a potentially lengthy period of policy paralysis at a shaky moment for the world's fourth-largest economy.

Ishiba, 68, instructed his Liberal Democratic Party

- which has governed Japan for almost all of the post-war era - to hold an emergency leadership race,

he told a press conference, adding he would continue his duties until his successor was elected.

Since coming to power less than a year ago, Ishiba has overseen his ruling coalition lose its majorities in elections for both houses of parliament amid voter anger over rising living costs. Ishiba narrowly defeated Takaichi in last year's LDP leadership run-off. Shinzo Abe is another possible successor.



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Seven held over vandalism and attack on police

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However, the family of Rasel Molla - who was killed during the violence - did not file any case.

"We have communicated with the family to lodge a case, but they have not done it yet," the OC said.

Rasel's father, Azad Molla, said his son was buried at Tenapacha village graveyard on Saturday night after a namaz-e-janaza at the local football ground.

Asked whether he would file a case, Azad said, "I haven't thought about that yet. We will discuss it with locals and family members before making a decision."

Rasel's younger brother, Sajjad Molla, 19, also came under assault and had to jump from the second floor of Nurul Haque's house and darbar sharif to save himself, fracturing his left ankle in the process.

Initially, Nurul's family requested a week's time to resolve the dispute. When I tried to resist them, they struck me with a machete. My right hand was injured as I tried to block the blow.

"Later, they set fire to the building. To save my life, I jumped from the second floor. I fainted and remained unconscious for a long time. After regaining consciousness, with the help of an acquaintance, I went to Faridpur by an auto-rickshaw and received treatment."

Locals said Nurul had a 12-foot-high tomb built before his death. He was buried in the elevated platform after he died on August 23.

The tomb generated heated debate in the locality.

The local administration held

multiple discussions with Nurul's followers and the group opposing the matter, said locals.

retreated, they vandalised the police vehicles and advanced toward Nurul Haque's house," he said.

Neighbours said the mob split into three groups to carry out the attack. One group hurled bricks, another scaled the walls and entered the house. About 15-20 devotees and a domestic worker inside were beaten and injured while trying to resist. The attackers looted valuables and torched what they could not take away.

Looting reportedly continued throughout the night.

"Once a man dies, what remains? What they did to the body is not acceptable in any religion," said local resident Sourav Sheik.

Abul Kashem Mondal, president of Goalanda municipality BNP and a member of the "Iman-O-Akida Rokhha Committee", said, "We wanted to resolve the

issue of Nurul Haque's burial through the administration, but their non-cooperation made things worse.

"We tried to keep people calm at the rally. But when a message came that police blocked some from attending, they got agitated and carried out the attack."

Nurul Islam, ameer of Rajbari district Jamaat-e-Islami, claimed none of his party men were involved in the attack. He said he instructed his party men and committee members to avoid any trouble after seeing that the grave was flattened as demanded.

Md Nuruzzaman, president of Rajbari Socheton Nagarik Committee, said, "What happened on Friday was unfortunate and avoidable. With proper vigilance by the local administration and community, this could have been prevented."

"At that moment, a group of 50-60 men armed with sharp weapons, hammers, iron rods, and shovels arrived.

When police tried to seize

the weapons, they attacked the law enforcers and started pelting stones. As police

retreated, they vandalised the police vehicles and advanced toward Nurul Haque's house," he said.

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