

PROTEST OVER G20 MEET

Anti-globalisation protesters hold placards during a demonstration in Seoul yesterday, as the G20 Summit gets under way in the South Korean capital. Local and foreign activists who see the Group of 20 advanced and emerging economies as a tool of the rich rallied in central Seoul in the afternoon, but turnout was lower than expected.

Photo: AFP



Parliament paralysed over ex-RSS chief's Sonia remark

PTI, New Delhi

Parliament was paralysed for the second day with the opposition storming the Well in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha demanding ouster of Telecom Minister A Raja, while Congress members denounced the RSS for KS Sudarshan's anti-Sonia Gandhi remarks.

No sooner did Speaker Meira Kumar take her seat in the Lok Sabha, BJP members rushed to the Well raising slogans against Raja. They were joined by AIADMK and Shiv Sena members. CPI(M) members were seen raising slogans from their seats.

They were countered by Congress members, some of whom including Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury trooped to the Well shouting slogans against the RSS.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister PK Bansal was seen trying to make a point citing anti-Gandhi reports quoted to former RSS chief KS Sudarshan in a Hindi newspaper.

The din prompted the Speaker to adjourn the House till 12 noon.

Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha, where Congress members rushed to the Well soon after Chairman Hamid Ansari took his chair. They carried copies of the newspaper.

Opposition BJP and AIADMK members also trooped into the Well raising slogans demanding dismissal of Raja on being "indicted" by CAG over his role in 2G spectrum allocation.

Ansari repeatedly asked members to go back to their places. "I can't hear anything," he said.

In less than two minutes after it met for the day, the Upper House was adjourned till 12 noon.

Though, proceedings resumed at 12 pm, both the Houses have been adjourned again till Monday.

China still blocking rare earth exports: Japan

AFP, Seoul

Shipments of valuable rare earth minerals from China to Japan still appear to be on hold, Japanese officials said yesterday, urging Beijing to resume exports after a diplomatic row.

"There is no noticeable progress in this regard," Hidenobu Sobashima, deputy director general at the foreign ministry,

told reporters as the G20 group of rich and emerging nations opened a two-day summit in Seoul.

"We keep requesting the Chinese side for more information and more concrete results, but as far as the statistics and the facts go, there is not much progress," Sobashima said.

Tokyo has accused China of restricting shipments of rare earths -- elements used

in high-tech products from iPods to cars -- since a September maritime incident in disputed waters sparked a bitter diplomatic row.

China, which controls 95 per cent of the global market, has denied any embargo, but a Japanese trade ministry survey in October found that all 31 companies handling rare earths in Japan had reported disruption to shipments.

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