Security Council to Hold Next Round of Standstill Poll on UN Chief Selection on Aug. 29

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council is scheduled to hold next round of standstill poll to select the next UN secretariat-general on Aug. 29, the council president announced here Friday. Ramazan Bin Ibrahim, the Malaysian UN ambassador who holds the rotating council president for August, told reporters here that the time for the next round of standstill poll was set after consultations in the 15-nation body.

The council members agreed to meet on the afternoon of Monday, the 15th of August, Ibrahim said.

The special envoy called on all parties to show flexibility and refrain from any action that undermines the chances of bringing about a peaceful solution.

Meanwhile, UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen Jamil Abyei also voiced alarm on Sunday, noting that the situation has been exacerbated by the closure of the Taiz airport.

He said that the people of Yemen continued to bear the brunt of the conflict, with many on the verge of starvation.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein recommended on Monday that the council did not reveal the date of the new round of the standstill vote.

A convoy of 500 vehicles belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reached the town of Hawar, near Turkey on Friday, the state news agency SANA reported.

Dubbed "definetion" of the deployment of the joint security force, the UN chief said the deployment of the force should be continued on Wednesday.

"We expect that the international community will join us in this effort," Ban said.

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths also voiced alarm on Saturday over the "catastrophic situation" in the war-torn country.

The Council president called the 19th meeting of the council after the previous 18 meetings were postponed, due to the August 21-23 parliament elections in Pakistan.