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Dubai Duty
Free CEO to
step down
after 41 years

DUBAI

BY ALEX ABRAHAM
Senior Associate Editor

Colm McLoughlin, the Dubai Duty Free chief who led the company for 41 years to make it the best in its field, is stepping down from his role on May 31.

After 55 years in the travel retail industry, McLoughlin, the Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO of Dubai Duty Free, will continue to work in an advisory role, attend sponsored sporting events, and remain Chairman of the Dubai Duty Free Foundation.



Colm
McLoughlin

"I am pleased to announce my retirement and want to extend my sincere thanks to all of our management and staff who have supported me so well. A huge thanks of course to our Chairman, Shaikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, who has been a wonderful boss to me for all these years."

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US halts shipping arms to Israel as battles rage around Rafah

NO FUEL OR AID CAN ENTER GAZA DUE TO MILITARY OPERATION, UN SAYS

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP

Hamas battled Israeli troops on the outskirts of the Gaza Strip's crowded southern city of Rafah yesterday and Washington said it had held up a shipment of powerful bombs to Israel to prevent civilian casualties.

The United States, which aims to stave off a full Israeli invasion of Rafah, said it believes a revised Hamas ceasefire proposal may lead to a breakthrough in an impasse in negotiations, with talks resuming in Cairo yesterday.

Israeli tanks rolled across the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt on Tuesday, cutting off a vital aid route and the only exit for the evacuation of wounded patients.

A UN official said no fuel or aid had entered the Gaza Strip due to the military operation, a situation "disastrous for the humanitarian response" in Gaza.

Hamas said its fighters were battling with Israeli forces in the east and Islamic Jihad's fighters attacked Israeli soldiers and military vehicles with heavy artillery near the airport.

"The streets of the city echo with the cries of innocent lives lost, families torn apart, and homes reduced to rubble. We stand on the brink of a human-



Reuters

■ Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid shortages of aid supplies, after Israeli forces launched a ground and air operation in the eastern part of Rafah, yesterday.

itarian catastrophe of unprecedented proportions," Rafah's mayor, Ahmad Al Sofi, said in an appeal to the international community to intervene.

A senior US official said Washington had carefully reviewed the delivery of weapons that might be used in Rafah, and as a result paused a shipment consisting of 1,800

2,000-lb bombs and 1,700 500-lb bombs. This would be the first such delay since the Biden administration, offered its "ironclad" support to Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack.

Ceasefire talks

In Cairo, delegations to negotiations from Hamas, Israel, the US, Egypt and Qatar reacted

positively to their resumption on Tuesday, two Egyptian sources said. "The talks are ongoing," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Air Force One yesterday.

Meanwhile, Israel said it was reopening the other crossing in southern Gaza, Kerem Shalom.

—Reuters

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