

Import Costs Drive Up Thobe Prices

Higher fabric and shipping costs could push average price from BD25 to BD27

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Thobe prices in Bahrain are heading for a rise as dearer cloth and sea freight squeeze tailors.

The average cost of a made-to-measure thobe remains about BD25, but shop owners say it may climb by 8 pc to roughly BD27 if import bills keep rising.

Tailors have so far absorbed the extra cost by cutting their own margins. Some said they would rather earn less than risk driving away buyers.

The rise has come from sea freight charges on goods shipped from Japan, China and South Korea. Road haulage rates within the Gulf have stayed much the same.

Sayed Hadi Al Baladi, who runs a tailoring shop in A'ali, said cloth was still easy to find in Bahrain. Most shops buy through agents and wholesalers in Kuwait and Dubai.

He said some types of cloth were likely to cost BD1 to BD3 extra, equal to a rise of between 4 pc and 12 pc.

A standard thobe now sells for between BD25 and BD28. Dearer pieces cost from BD35 to BD38.

The price of a metre of some cloth has gone up from BD3.5 to BD3.8.

A roll of Japanese cloth can cost about BD100, while wool rolls sell for about BD200. Some shops buy at least 250 rolls to give customers a wide choice of colours and cloth.

Al Baladi said many shops still had good stocks, mainly those that bought large loads before Ramadan.

But he warned that some traders might raise the price of old stock bought months ago at cheaper rates.

Prices for ghutras, shemaghs and men's accessories remain unchanged, including high-end English shemaghs brought in from Britain.

Fahad Al Hardan, who owns a tailoring shop in Salmaniya, said trade had slowed since Eid Al Fitr.

The average price of a thobe remained near BD25, he said, even as shops paid more for thread and button padding from Germany and Britain.

Al Hardan also warned that some cloth was being sold as Japanese when it had been made elsewhere.

He said shops must be open with buyers and give clear details on where the cloth came from.

Some tailors are now using Korean cloth instead of well-known Japanese makes such as Shikibo, Toyobo and Semiramis.

Hardan called for cloth traders with skill in the field to buy straight from mills in East Asia and Europe and pick stock suited to Bahrain.

Many shops now buy through agents in Saudi Arabia.

A roll of Japanese cloth costs about BD70 on average, while genuine Semiramis can reach BD120.

Semiramis remains one of the most sought-after fabrics among Bahraini buyers, though stocks are scarce.

Al Hardan said genuine Japanese cloth was easier to check because most packs now carry the mill stamp and packing date. Cotton and high-grade spun



polyester were among the best picks for summer, he said, as they were cool, did not cling to the body and were less likely to crease.

Yasser Al Shaaban, manager of a men's tailoring shop in Zinj, said the cost of imported cloth had edged up, while some summer types were harder to find.

The price of a metre had risen by about 200 fils, while some rolls now cost BD5 to BD6 extra.

He said a thobe priced at BD25 today may rise to about BD27 if those costs keep climbing.

But shop owners were still trying to absorb part of the rise themselves to keep prices within reach and stop trade from slowing further.

Fake Door and Car Ads Raise Scam Concerns

Al Qubaisi urges crackdown on illegal advertisers using bogus business numbers

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A municipal councillor has called for tougher action against illegal paper advertisements placed on home doors, car windows and public facilities, warning that many promote fake businesses using unregistered phone numbers.



Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Northern Municipal Council member

Al Qubaisi urged the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Com-

merce to launch joint inspection campaigns to identify those behind the adverts and take legal action against them. He said investigations found many listed numbers belong to non-existent businesses with no commercial registration, describing the practice as a commercial and security fraud that could endanger residents and their property.

He also called for the immediate removal of the advertisements to preserve neighborhood appearance and urged the public to avoid dealing with unknown numbers or unverified service providers.

Bahrain Gold Hits BD44 as Buyers Hold On

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Gold buyers in Bahrain are still paying up despite a sharp world price swing, with jewellery near BD44 a gram and bullion at about BD50 as war fears and US rate bets drive the market.

The metal climbed to about \$4,119 an ounce before falling back towards \$4,000, hit by a stronger dollar and shifting views on US interest rates. Oil prices, fighting in the region and fears over the Strait of Hormuz have added to the strain.

Jaafar bin Jaafar of Bin Jaafar Jewellery said demand was at a middling level, below that seen in recent weeks.

He said trade had been stronger earlier, though buyers had not left the market. Gold reached about BD44 a gram this week as the world price rose above \$4,100 an ounce.

Mr bin Jaafar said local prices were being driven by events abroad. Any easing of the war or fears over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz could pull gold lower. A turn for the worse would likely send investors back towards the metal as a safe place for their money.

Sayed Mahmood Jalal of Delmon Bars said current



prices offered a better entry point than those seen a month ago.

Bullion is selling at about BD50 a gram, while an ounce costs roughly BD1,590. The same amount was close to BD1,635 last month.

Buying remains healthy, he said, though well below past peaks. Purchases still outnumber sales, showing that many investors would rather hold their gold than cash out.

Jalal said Bahrain's market often showed an odd pattern: buyers grew keener as prices rose. Many feared missing further gains and saw bullion as a long-term store of wealth.

Gold dealers expect the next move to hinge on central-bank rate calls, the dollar and the course of the war in the Middle East.

Trade has cooled from earlier months, but gold remains one of the main places investors turn when markets are unsettled. The recent fall in world silver prices has also kept much of the focus on the yellow metal.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Drug Trafficking Suspect Awaits Verdict

Man accused of assaulting officer during arrest

A 28-year-old Asian man is awaiting judgment after standing trial on charges of trafficking marijuana and assaulting a police officer while attempting to evade arrest.

Prosecutors said the defendant was part of an organised drug trafficking network that used the "dead drop" method to distribute narcot-

ics. Officers arrested him after he allegedly resisted capture, seizing 24 grams of marijuana and a digital weighing scale. The defendant admitted during questioning that he worked with the network, while forensic tests confirmed the seized substance was marijuana. The High Criminal Court is scheduled to deliver its verdict on August 11.

Prosecution Seeks Maximum Penalty in Jaffari Endowments Fraud Case

The Public Prosecution has demanded the maximum legal penalty against a former head of department at the General Directorate of Jaffari Endowments, on trial for embezzlement, money laundering and exploiting more than 15 people, including 14 Bahraini women.

The accused allegedly approached widows and divorced women with no income, offering marriage and sending romantic messages to win their trust, before using their names to obtain endowment cheques without their knowledge. He is also accused

of forging a signature to settle BD160,000 in loans.

A National Audit Office probe found he embezzled BD414,453.900 since 2014, while investigators put the total obtained at BD483,107,710. Financial analysts said BD404,844.740 was laundered through credit card payments, loans, and vehicle purchases, with his son's bank account also used to funnel BD9,300.

The Jaffari Endowments Council chairman testified a forged letter had been used to approve a personal loan.

The High Criminal Court First Circuit set July 26 for defence arguments.

Three Face Trial Over Dried Fish Drug Smuggling

More than 3kg of marijuana allegedly concealed for 'dead drop' distribution

Three Asian nationals have gone on trial before Bahrain's High Criminal Court over allegations of smuggling more than 3kg of marijuana concealed inside dried fish for distribution using the "dead drop" method.

According to prosecutors, customs officers at Bahrain International Airport uncovered 3.025kg of marijuana hidden in luggage belonging to two

women after an X-ray inspection. Investigators later arrested a third suspect while he was collecting the shipment outside a hotel. Prosecutors said the suspects were linked to an overseas drug network, with the third defendant allegedly paid BD1 for each location where he hid narcotics for collection. The case was adjourned until July 26 for defence arguments.

24 Asian Suspects Detained Over Financing Fraud

Public Prosecution investigates use of forged documents to obtain financial funding

The Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of 24 Asian suspects pending investigation into allegations of obtaining financial funding through forged private documents.

The case was referred to the Public Prosecution by the Economic Crimes Combating Directorate at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, which reported the arrest of an alleged fraud network involved in fraudulent

transactions.

Investigators said the suspects allegedly used falsified documents submitted to a company to secure financial financing.

The Public Prosecution questioned the suspects and ordered their detention while investigations continue. Authorities have also ordered the arrest and summons of other suspects who remain at large. The investigation is ongoing ahead of possible referral of the case to the criminal court.

Bahraini Mothers Share Craft Skills Abroad



Two graduates of Bahrain's Netaj Khair Al Bahrain programme have travelled to Zanzibar to train orphaned students in handicrafts as part of a volunteer initiative aimed at promoting vocational skills and sustainable income generation. Supported by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, Fatima Jamal and Huda Eid are teaching embroidery, traditional Naqda embroidery, sewing and crochet at an orphan school in the Republic of Zanzibar. Organised by The Journey Adventures in collaboration with the Bahrain Youth Hostels Association, the project enables students to create handmade products for sale at the school's souvenir shop, helping generate income to support the school's activities while encouraging self-reliance.

Empowering Bahrain's Youth



Secretary-General of the Shura Council Kareema Mohammed Al Abbasi, reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to empowering youth. Speaking during a meeting with participants of the Hypo Youth national leadership programme under Youth City 2030, Al Abbasi shared her leadership journey and stressed the importance of developing leadership skills, discovering talent and creating a positive impact. She stated that Bahrain has built a comprehensive youth empowerment system aligned with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.