

Japanese Cloth Shortage Narrows Thobe Choices

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Japanese cloth used for tailored thobes has grown scarce in Bahrain and across the Gulf after fabric mills in Tokyo cut output by an estimated 70 pc, traders said.

The drop has slowed exports to Gulf consumer markets amid regional disruptions, leaving agents and distributors in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE with fewer supplies and reducing options for tailors and customers in Bahrain.

Sadiq Al Durazi, a trader in men's fabrics, said wholesale shops and thobe tailors had begun importing Indonesian and Chinese cloth as substitutes for Japanese fabrics, which remain among the most sought-after in the Gulf.

Indian linen has also been brought into the market as supplies of Japanese summer fabrics, including 'Semiramis', have thinned. Its price has doubled, both by the bolt and by the metre, he said.

Al Durazi said Bahraini importers, through contact with distributors in Kuwait, were looking at Gulf specifications for Indonesian fabrics so they would better suit hot weather and serve as a replacement for Japanese cloth.

He said Bahrain relies heavily on Japanese fabric brought in



through Kuwaiti companies.

Some tailors have also turned to the UAE in search of cloth better suited to Bahrain's summer, he added.

The average price of a thobe made from 3.5 metres of Indonesian or Japanese fabric, including tailoring, is BD22, while a linen thobe costs about BD17.

Prices are likely to rise in the coming days, he said, pointing to global shipping costs. Shipping a box holding 12 or 16 fabric bolts now costs around BD80.

Al Durazi said a black market in fabrics was unlikely, as traders were already seeking substitutes from several sources in Asia and Europe.

Yasser Shaaban, owner of a thobe tailoring company, said Bahrain was short of several well-known Japanese fabrics, which had affected the range of choices available to customers.

He said most fabrics now found



Demand for thobe tailoring before Eid Al Adha is currently around 40% of the levels usually seen before Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr.

in shops were older stock imported before Ramadan.

Shaaban said customers seeking higher-grade cloth would find alternatives from England, Germany and Italy, though at higher prices. Fabrics imported from parts of Asia, he added, would help keep average prices within reach as a substitute for Japanese cloth.

Exclusive

Pilgrims Arrive, Mission Delivers

Seamless systems, spiritual support, and strong coordination define this year's pilgrimage season

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

As Bahraini pilgrims arrive at the holy sites this Hajj season, the efforts behind their journey are drawing well-deserved praise. Bahrain's Hajj Mission, working in close coordination with Hajj operators, has ensured a smooth, comfortable, and spiritually enriching experience from the start.

Shaikh Nabil Mohammed Saleh, Chairman of Al Fateh Hajj and Umrah Mission, told the Daily Tribune that Saudi Arabia's continued investment in digital services has been a game-changer. "The remarkable progress in automating services has facilitated many transactions, enabling faster completion of tasks and more accurate follow-up," he



Shaikh Nabil Mohammed Saleh

said. Electronic platforms have simplified procedures for both pilgrims and operators alike.

Shaikh Nabil praised Bahrain's Hajj Mission for its outstanding cooperation and commitment. Regular inspection visits by the mission's leadership, he noted, have played a key role in identifying improvements and resolving challenges on the ground.

Beyond logistics, Al Fateh Campaign has prioritised spiritual readiness—distrib-

uting four dedicated guidebooks, hosting daily Qur'an sessions, and launching the Khatmatuka fi Al Hajj initiative, encouraging pilgrims to complete a full recitation of the Holy Qur'an during the sacred days.

With over 900 emergency response vehicles and thousands of healthcare personnel deployed across the holy sites, pilgrims can focus entirely on their worship with confidence and peace of mind.

Ensures Eid Supplies



Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, met livestock breeders and traders to discuss preparations for supplying local markets ahead of Eid Al-Adha.

The meeting focused on ensuring the availability of livestock and meat products during the holiday season, when demand traditionally rises across the kingdom.

Eid Al Adha Mubarak

May Allah accept your sacrifices and worship, forgive your sins, and bless you and your family with happiness, peace and abundant blessings.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed

Eid Al-Adha

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