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**Iran war turns Japan's snack packaging black and white – 18th May 2026**

## Level 4

The Iran war has affected food makers in Japan. There is now a shortage of the ink needed to make food wrappings. One major snack manufacturer is changing its packaging from colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's best-selling potato chips. Some of its products will come with a message that says: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrappings transparent.

The Iran war has led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is used to make printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japan's prime minister has said Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. Actions will be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more. However, the snack maker is anticipating "the possibility of additional impacts arising".

## Level 5

The Iran war has brought consequences for food makers in Japan. A shortage of a product needed to make ink has caused companies to change the design of food wrapping. One major snack manufacturer is changing its packaging from colour to black and white. The company sells some of Japan's best-selling potato chips. A spokesperson said some products will come with a message that explains: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, a Japanese ketchup maker will make parts of its wrapping transparent in a bid to deal with the ink shortage.

Tensions in the Middle East have led to a shortage of a hydrocarbon called naphtha. This is a component in the production of plastics and printing ink. It is made from crude oil. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has assured people that Japan will have enough naphtha to last beyond this year. She said actions would be taken to ensure the supply. These include increasing domestic production and importing more from other countries. However, the snack maker said: "Depending on how the situation evolves, we anticipate the possibility of additional impacts arising."

## Level 6

The Iran war has brought unexpected consequences for food makers in Japan. A shortage of a product needed to manufacture ink has caused several companies to change the design of their food wrapping. Major snack manufacturer Calbee is temporarily changing the packaging for some of its most popular products to black and white. The company sells some of the best-selling potato chips in Japan. A spokesperson said some of its products will come with a printed message that explains: "Packaged to save oil-related materials." Meanwhile, food and beverage maker Kagome will make some of the wrapping for its popular ketchup transparent in a bid to deal with the ink shortage.

Tensions in the Middle East are responsible for a shortage of a hydrocarbon liquid called naphtha. This is an important component in the production of plastics, solvents and printing ink. It is derived from crude oil. At the end of April, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi assured industry leaders that Japan had secured enough naphtha to last beyond this year. She said countermeasures would be taken to ensure a supply of the liquid. These include a ramping up of domestic production, and a threefold increase in naphtha imports from countries outside the Middle East. However, Calbee said: "Depending on how the situation evolves, we anticipate the possibility of additional impacts arising."