

Yemen second in arms possession

Amira Nasser

SANA'A, July 25 – Yemen is ranked the second highest country in the world for weapons possession, with 61 weapons per 100 civilians, according to a 2007 survey by Small Arms Survey reported on this week by The Guardian.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime published in its annual crime survey that 11.5 million is the average total of all civilian-owned firearms.

There are about 52 million weapons in Yemen, based on the first field survey done by the European Union and Dar Al-Salam Organization. The survey was done in a number of Yemeni governorates, including Abyan, Lahajj and Al-Jawf, according to Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani, the head of Dar Al-Salam Organization.

After the 2011 political uprising, weapons spread throughout the whole country, Al-Marwani said.



In the Haseba area of Sana'a, guns are ubiquitous.

Weapons merchants are considered the most important source for weapons sales in Yemen, especially in its wide-spreading selling

centers, which provide a variety of weapon across the country, as in Jahafa in Khawlan and in al-Talh in Saada.

"The Russian medium guns, Chinese guns and German guns are the most popular kinds spread among civilians," he said.

There is no gun control in Yemen, especially after 2011's political changes, despite the statements from governmental facilities regarding prohibiting holding weapons, Al-Marwani said.

"The influence of sheikhs increased, especially under the weak role that the government played in the country, which gave the chance for weapons to spread strongly in all parts of the country," he said.

Yemenis have owned weapons for many years, but the risk increases in the absence of law and government, lack of security, banditry, lack of employment and lack of essential services such as water and electricity, said Mohsen Khossrof, a retired brigadier-general.

"We are in a country that is ruled now by traditions, not law," he said.

Concerns over AQAP role in Abyan

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, July 25 – Lawdar district in Abyan has been witnessing the deployment of security forces since the beginning of the last week in anticipation of confrontations with Al-Qaeda.

Jamal Hussein, an activist reporter and a resident of Lawdar district, said there are concerns over the outbreak of clashes between Al-Qaeda and the Popular Committee in Lawdar; Ansar Al-Sharia-linked militants attempted to retaliate against the locals in Lawdar who sided with the army fighting against Al-Qaeda in Abyan last month.

Although Al-Qaeda was driven from Abyan and its activities have been limited, the security situation is still volatile.

A security source at the Ministry of Defense told the Yemen Times that Al-Qaeda militants are in Al-Mahfad district in Abyan, and they

try to launch extensive attacks on the patrolmen, particularly at night.

The source said that the air force is continuing its surveillance of Abyan in order to pursue Al-Qaeda and storm their locations.

For her part, Ashwaq Sytan, an activist and a resident of Abyan, said that the whistle of bullets has still been heard in Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan; however, their sources remain unknown.

On Tuesday, the Xinhua News Agency quoted a Yemeni official as stating that a number of Al-Qaeda militants in Ja'ar changed to be latent cells who distribute slogans regarding the so-called the Islamic nation. They encourage people to disobey and fight against the government in many places in Ja'ar, which suggests that the region may be under threat of reclamation by Al-Qaeda.

The army with the support of the people's committee took over Ja'ar

and Zinjibar, on June 12. Al-Qaeda militants were expelled having been in control of the areas for several months.

Meanwhile, the National Committee, dealing with removal of landmines, revealed last Tuesday that teams specializing in removing landmines eliminated over 3020 of landmines, explosives and bombs that were planted by the organization before fleeing Abyan.

The committee indicated that most of landmines are in Zinjibar and other areas including Al-Qood, Khanfar, Jabal Lahbosh and Shofra.

The committee estimated that up to 10,000 landmines have been planted in Abyan, suggesting that they remain the biggest threat to the lives of the displaced who are attempting to return to their homes.

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Ongoing Challenges face IDPs in Abyan

Ahmed Dawood

ABYAN, July 24 – Landmines, water and power shortages still form the biggest difficulty for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abyan governorate.

People who returned to their homes in Zinjibar, Ja'ar and Bajadar have voiced complaints about the total lack of power in their homes as well as the quality of drinking water. Others are anxious about landmines, which have been planted in several areas across Abyan.

Ashwaq Sylan, a human rights activist and a resident of Abyan, said Bajadar district and Hish Shaddad village are both infested with landmines. She said people return from Aden to their hometowns in Abyan because they largely depend on agriculture.

"The biggest challenge facing the IDPs is the landmines," Sylan said.

She said three IDPs were killed last week in Abyan in a landmine explosion near the Ali Mosque in Bajadar district.

On the situation in Zinjibar, Sylan said most homes have been destroyed. She said some residential areas were totally razed such as Al-Falooja in Bajadar district.



A displaced family from Abyan took refuge in one of Aden's local schools.

Although conditions in Abyan have seriously deteriorated from the conflict between Ansar Al-Sharia and the army, efforts continue to relieve the suffering of IDPs by providing them with essential needs.

On Monday, a free medical campaign was launched under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense; the campaign will continue for two weeks and will provide services for locals including medication, tests and surgery.

Abdullah Al-Duhaimi, executive unit manager for Abyan's displaced, said they work in coordination with Abyan's governor, Jamal Al-Aqil, in order to provide all fundamen-

tal needs for the displaced. However, he suggested the efforts have been slow.

Al-Duhaimi said water has been restored to some areas in Zinjibar. Regarding electricity, Al-Duhaimi said they are doing their best to provide generators to

Zinjibar residents.

To date, the executive unit of IDPs in Abyan has not received a report about the areas cleared from landmines. The displaced are encouraged to return to their homes provided homes are in safe places, said Al-Duhaimi. He promised the executive unit is willing to provide help and support for the displaced following their return to their homes.

"What is required now is the rehabilitation of the war-torn houses," Al-Duhaimi said. "The reconciliation government should double its efforts in order to ensure the lives of IDPs returning home."

More protests for release of detainees

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANAA, July 24 – The General Council of the Revolutionary Abducted Youth demanded the release of arbitrarily held detainees during a protest Tuesday in front of the Yemeni Cabinet.

Abdulkarim Thua'il, head of the council, said names of the abducted were given to the Yemeni prime minister, the minister of defense, the interior minister and the minister of human rights. He said they have information and statistics about more than 117 detainees.

Thua'il said that two months ago, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi ordered security departments to release the arrestees within 72 hours.

Prime Minister Mohammed Basindwah also gave orders to release all uncharged detainees. But the security departments paid no attention to these orders, instead suggesting that no abducted detainees were being held in their prisons.

Major General Rajeh Hanash, vice-director of the political security, said there were no detainees in the Political Security Prison. He refused to give further details.

Thua'il asserted that the council has evidence proving that there are



Demands for the release of detainees were made during Tuesday morning's protest in front of the Yemeni Cabinet.

arrestees in the Central Security, National Security and the Military Intelligence prisons. He said the former regime, headed by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, still wields considerable power in the country.

"We will never accept that the detainees are to remain held in prisons and will continue protesting until they are all released," he said.

Nadia Al-Nwairah, wife of the

abducted Jamal Al-Dhafiri, said her husband is still in the Political Security Prison, though he hasn't yet been charged.

Last year, two military vehicles linked to the Central Security Forces captured Al-Dhafiri in front of Adhban Mosque near his house.

The reconciliation government issued Decree 108 in 2012, which stipulated the release of all abducted revolutionary youth.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Water and Environment Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation Projects Management Unit

Invitation for Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for Training Program

- The Republic of Yemen has received a fund from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development towards the cost of Sana'a Sanitation Project. Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC) intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Financial, Administrative and Technical Training Program for the SWSLC staff. The training program shall include:
 - Part I : Technical and Engineering Training (Inside and outside The Republic of Yemen)
 - Part II : Financial management and Administrative Training (Inside and outside the Republic of Yemen)
- The Ministry of Water and Environment and Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (Project Implementation Unit) invites eligible International and local Universities, training centers and consulting Com. to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested universities, training centers and consulting Com must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Associated University, training center and consulting Com that have expertise in Local or Arabian training are preferable.

Scope of training includes but not limited to the following:

Target groups	Total Training Duration	Scope of Training
Technical Training		
International Universities, training centers and consulting Com. It can cooperate with local Org.	20 Months	1) Design, Execution /Implementation and operation and maintenance of wastewater collection, disposal and treatment facilities (Sewers, pumping station and treatment plants). 2) Design, Execution /Implementation and operation and maintenance of water supply networks, pumping stations and ground water wells. 3) Drilling, testing and commissioning of ground water wells.
Financial and Administrative Training		
Local Universities, training centers and consulting Com. There is Prerequisite to cooperate with International training centers in outside.	20 Months	Administration ,leadership, Quality, The financial aspects, media, Information technology, strategic management and customer service.

- Universities, training centers and consulting Com will be Qualified in accordance with terms of Arab fund of Economic and social development, which are approved by high tenders committee.
- Further information may be obtained from the Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation during working hours at the address below.

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation
Head of Projects management Unit(PMU).
Al Hasaba – Near the Ministry of public Health and population
 Tel. **01 237644**
 Fax. **01 237645**

- Two copies of the Expressions of interest must be delivered not after maximum thirty (30) days after the date of advertisement.
- The Documents shall contain all the requested documents such as :-
 - Organization History , Experience and profile.
 - Curriculum Vitae for the proposed staff including Administration staff and Head of organization
 - Institutions and clients who have benefited from the organization services and kind of services provided
 - Associated consultancies and organization including their experience
 - Information about the objectives and the mission of the Organization, Ownership, organizational structure, financial situation, expertise and record of the implementation of previous training programs, training plan till 2012 and services and previous other similar services
 - Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.
 - Specify the training halls and equipments which shall for conducting the training programs.
 - With relevant to technical training, the workshops and fields of training shall be specified.

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Teaching syndicate demands resignation of current rectors

Ghayda Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 25 — The Sana'a and Amran Teaching Staff Syndicate demanded the resignation of the current rectors in order to begin electing new academic staff.

The syndicate's plan would be to start with the rectors to heads of various departments, based on the decision of the Higher Education's Supreme Council.

Doctor Abdullah Al-Azazi, secretary-general of the syndicate, said the syndicate called upon the Yemeni government to amend the university laws immediately, based on suggestions given to the prime minister, including that rectors must be elected.

"There is a state of tension in the universities because of the politics

among the staff," Al-Azazi said. "Some people try to get stronger by obtaining support of the syndicates and unions' members they belong to which may cause tension we want to avoid."

Al-Azazi also said the university must achieve its message according to the law Yemeni universities adhere to. They must achieve their three aims: education, community services and scientific research. He said it is for the Ministry of Legal Affairs now to look after the amendments.

Ali Al-Awadhi, manager of the Sana'a University rectors' office, said the demands were illegal and violate the law of Yemeni universities, which stipulates that rectors be appointed by a presidential decree and not election.

Project supports biodiversity in Yemen

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, July 24 — Yemen signed a National Biodiversity Planning project on Tuesday which supports implementing an agreement on biodiversity in Yemen between 2012 and 2020.

A statement issued by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) stated that the Global Environment Facility-funded project, which costs \$250,000, aims to help Yemen to fulfill its commitments regarding the biodiversity agreement that was signed in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.

Abdulkhakeem Al-Qadasi, Director of the Biodiversity and Biosafety Department in the General Authority for Environmental Protection, said that the project aims to administratively and financially reform the outdated national strategy of biodiversity.

Al-Qadasi told the Yemen Times that the project, which will be implemented in two years by a cadre of Yemenis, intends to make the fifth biodiversity report within the project's first year.

The original strategy intended to improve nature reserves like Bora'a, Otma and Hawf which deserve protection for their role in maintaining the environmental

balance.

"Yemen will receive large investments in biodiversity from this project. Several Yemeni areas were announced as nature reserves and others will be," Al-Qadasi noted.

A number of worksheets presented at the National Green Economy Conference, held in June 2012 in Hodeida, pointed out that the nature reserves in Yemen, particu-

larly Bora'a in Hodeida, Hawf in Mahra, and Al-Hoswa in Aden face problems like logging, grazing and road construction.

The National Biodiversity Planning Project is the second Yemeni project in biodiversity. The first project was provided by the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and funded by the UNDP.

Embassy denies consul's release

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, July 25 — The Saudi Embassy in Yemen has denied reports about the alleged release of Abdullah Al-Khaledi, the Saudi vice-consul abducted in Yemen by Al-Qaeda in March.

In an interview with Yemen Times, the Saudi embassy secretary said, "It isn't true that Al-Khaledi will be released soon. The Saudi embassy and its consulate in Aden didn't reach an agreement to release him. We have had no contact with the kidnappers."

Various news websites reported in the past two days that the Saudi diplomat would soon be released. Reports suggested that tribal figures reached an agreement with Al-Qaeda to release Al-Khaledi on the condition that Saudi Arabia pays a ransom and would release several abducted persons in its prisons.

A source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that there is no news yet about any confirmation of the release of Al-Khaledi.



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Imprisoned refugees thrown on Sana'a streets



No longer prisoners, these Oromo-Ethiopian refugees now live on the streets with no food, water, blankets or mattresses.



Refugees held a protest outside the Ministry of Human Rights building to call attention to perceived excessive force used by security forces to remove them from the immigration prison in Sana'a.

Story by Ahlam Mohsen
Photos by Nicholas Linn

African refugees and asylum seekers demonstrated outside the Human Rights Ministry in Hadda on Monday morning, protesting excessive force used by Yemeni security forces to remove them from the country's immigration prison the previous evening.

According to the former prisoners, security forces forcibly removed them from the prison.

Security forces used tear gas and rubber bullets, the former prisoners said, throwing tear gas canisters into cells to disorient them, before dragging them out and beating them with steel rods.

Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali

refugees who were in the prison now live on the streets.

Following last year's 11-month demonstration, refugees set up tents outside UNHCR's Sana'a office before being removed by Yemeni security forces. UNHCR said it offered the refugees a one-time payment to end demonstrations outside the office. Refugees said they were offered \$400 per family, though those who accepted UNHCR's offer said they only received \$200 of the promised \$400.

During the height of the political uprising, refugees—facing increased violence from Yemeni security forces—demanded a durable and permanent solution to their situations.

"Many of us have been here for 10, 15, 20 years," said one Oromo-Ethiopian woman. "We asked for

Yemeni citizenship or repatriation elsewhere. They rejected all of our demands, and after being removed, we agreed we would go to Al Kharaz refugee camp. They took three buses to Al Kharaz; the rest of us were taken to prison."

UNHCR estimates 400 refugees were initially taken from outside the UNHCR building and placed in immigration prison. Prior to Sunday's removal of refugees from the prison, UNHCR estimated there were 120 men, children and women inside. Prisoners said there were 114 refugees—102 Ethiopians, seven Eritreans and five Somalis, including 40 women and 54 children. The youngest of the imprisoned was 3 months old.

"They threw tear gas canisters into the men's cells," Makya Ahmed, 25, said. "The gas drifted

over, women and children were crying and vomiting. After they removed us from our cell, they hit me in the back with a steel rod and then picked me up and threw me into a van."

Refugees at Monday's protest, now living on the streets with no food or water, sounded increasingly desperate.

"We aren't allowed any dignity," Ahmed said. "We can't live like this; take back your IDs. They're of no use to us," she said about her Refugee Status identification card.

Desperate for justice

Some refugees threatened to harm themselves if their situations didn't improve. Several mentioned self-immolation as an option.

"We have no work, no one treats us well, we've contacted all the hu-

man rights groups," Yousef Aman, an Oromo-Ethiopian, said. "At this point, we are just tired. I don't know if there are human beings anywhere else on the planet who live like this. It's been 10 years for me. I can't go on; I'd rather destroy myself."

Ramadan difficulties

The majority of the refugees are Muslim and spend the month of Ramadan fasting, praying and thinking of God. Refugees reported that immigration prison authorities did not provide food or water during their last three weeks in prison. They instead relied on friends or community members to bring food and water once a week from outside.

Today, the refugees, who have no blankets, mattresses or clothes other than what they are wearing,

sleep on cement pavements, unprotected from the elements. It is Ramadan, but they have no Suhoor or Iftar—one woman wondered aloud if God will accept her fast.

Yemen's obligations

According to the U.N.'s 1951 Refugee Convention, to which Yemen is a signatory, the state has obligations to refugees. These include protecting a refugee's right to non-refoulement—protection against forcible return. While the Yemeni government grants prima-facie refugee status to Somalis fleeing two decades of war, it does not recognize the refugee status of Ethiopians and Eritreans. Yemeni policy is to arrest and deport them, behavior that is contradictory to international law, according to Human Rights Watch.

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This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (786) on 26th Nov 2010.

The Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the National Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health and Population Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for procurement and supply, and Installation of Hardware for Project Administration Unit, outreach team and Targeted Governorate Bid No. (2).

The Health and Population Project (HPP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for procurement, supply, Installation of Hardware for Inventory and Personnel Affairs as follows:

Description	Amount of Bid Security Required
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The bidders may bid one or more Lots, and should quote separate prices using the forms provided for one or more Lots. The bid evaluation will be conducted per Lots.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Grants, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Administration Unit (PAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$ 100.00** for local bidders, the method of payment will be in cash or certified check and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by at 11:00 a.m. on 27th August, 2012. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at 11:00 a.m. on 27th August, 2012.

Project Administration Unit - Health and Population Project (HPP)
Ministry of Public Health & Population
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Program Building – 1st Floor
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E-mail: fadhlem@gmail.com

Goats in garbage pass ills

**Story and photo by
Muaad Al-Maqtari**

Mohammed Rajab has about 50 goats. He entrusted them to Moneer, his son, in order to keep them safe and take them every day to graze on a hill to the north of Sana'a.

Last week, Moneer was upset. He said his father scolded him because Al-Hanoof, the finest goat of the lot, suddenly died.

Moneer and his neighbor Hamood Al-Ahdal, an elderly man with a respected knowledge about goats, tried to save the goat's life by taking it to a veterinary center.

However, since there is no center in their village, which rests in the Shamlan district in the outskirts of Sana'a, they had to take it to a veterinarian in large market for goats and cows in Bab Al-Yemen.

On the way, an argument arose between Moneer and Al-Ahdal about the causes of the death. Monner insisted the goat died of a snakebite it received on the hill, while Al-Ahdal said the goat suffocated on a plastic bag it swallowed whilst grazing.

When the veterinarian checked the goat, it was discovered that Al-Hanoof had indeed died from swallowing an indigestible bag.

Moneer said the goat ate nothing for four days because the plastic bag stopped its stomach completely.

Al-Ahdal said hundreds of goats graze on grass in this region, which is better than coastal pastures. Moreover, the goats' meat and milk are better quality. However, lots of garbage and plastic bags inundate upland pastures.

Adel Al-Daw'ani, manager of Wadi Hadramout Restaurant in Sana'a, said there are notable differences between goats that graze in uplands and those from coastal areas. He said the smell of goat meat from animals that graze on uplands is better.

Al-Daw'ani said goats that graze



According to Yusof Shamsan, a veterinarian, when goats graze in garbage, diseases can spread to humans.

in cities eat garbage and stink when
their meat is cooked.

Yusof Shamsan, a veterinarian, said diseases can spread to humans in this way. When the goat eats garbage, its meat becomes polluted; this is transferred to humans when the meat is eaten.

Shamsan said garbage poses a problem for humans; however, some garbage is beneficial for animals such as that from butchers and fish markets, which contains nutritious leftovers.

Shamsan said it is essential to differentiate between the detrimental garbage and the environmentally friendly leftovers that pose no danger to humans or animals.

"As long as humans live on earth, trash is accumulating," Shamsan said. "This rubbish is troublesome for man but a good source of food for animals."

Studies conducted by the veterinary center affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation indicated that meat and milk from animals eating garbage carry hazardous viruses and diseases that could cause tumors if the meat is not fully digested.

The study concluded that the tumors trigger tiny insects, which

ferment in the stomach resulting in the destruction of the stomach and the bowels. These tumors are transferable and could transmit more than 200 fatal diseases.

The veterinary center urged those who rear goats and cows meant to be slaughtered during Eid to provide suitable nutrition for the animals for 40 days before eating their meat. This will guarantee a safe, disease-free meal.

Milk should be boiled for 15 minutes. Attention must be paid to grass eaten by goats, particularly in urban areas. There must be caution when buying goats, as this is a ceremonial time, so there is an increased demand.

The National Strategy (2012-2016) for the agricultural sector notes that the current situation prevailing rural areas, with respect to marketing and slaughtering the animals, ought to be reconsidered.

Sadeq Al-Nabhani, an engineer participating in the strategy, said there is a worry about the health risks caused by inadequate butcheries and the absence of appropriate health inspections.

Butcheries should be under inspection before and after slaughtering, according to Al-Nabhani.

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Old Sana'a celebrates

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

Tucked away in alleyways and in corners of Sana'a's old city, Yemenis prepare food, sing songs and sell trinkets in celebration of Ramadan. Desserts and sweet drinks are necessities. Music is a must. The days are spent getting ready for the Iftar and for the long nights that follow.



Rawani and Shawbia—homemade desserts—are essential in the Ramadan meal. In Sana'a's markets, demands for Rawani and Shawbia double on the first days of Ramadan.



Sambousa, made of flour fried in oil, is abundant during the season. It is eaten during the breaking of the fast. Preparation for the fried and stuffed dough takes hours, and the Iftar is incomplete without it.



At Ramadan, chants are considered spiritually advantageous for fasting people in this world and in the hereafter. It fosters tolerance, integrity and faith.



The fasting individual breaks his fast with dates, in token of obedience to Prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him. Dates help alleviate hunger and thirst.



Al-Shafoot—homemade flat bread mixed with yogurt and vegetables—and Al-Shurba—soup—are common meals at Ramadan.



The Ramadan lantern has become an inviting piece of Arabian décor, found in many modern Yemeni homes. It has long been an emblem of Ramadan nights.



Homemade sweets increase during Ramadan, as people fasting feel more inclined to consume sugar.



By the end of Ramadan, preparations commence for Eid. It is a Yemeni tradition to purchase raisins and almond before Eid.



Drinks, both cold and hot, are a Ramadan craving. The drink industry revels during Ramadan, and Sana'a is unmatched in terms of preparing raisin drinks with flavors such as apricot, barley and grape.

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