

The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, snow arriving by afternoon, high 30. Tonight, periods of snow, briefly heavy, low 26. Tomorrow, clearing, breezy, high 33. Weather map and details are on Page A22.

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BEN GARVIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pupils at the Twin Cities International Elementary School, a charter school in Minneapolis that serves East African immigrants.

Immigrants in Charter Schools Seeking the Best of Two Worlds

By SARA RIMER

MINNEAPOLIS — Fartun Warsame, a Somali immigrant, thought she was being a good mother when she transferred her five boys to a top elementary school in an affluent Minneapolis suburb. Besides its academic advantages, the school was close to her job as an ultrasound technician, so if the teachers called, she could get there right away. "Immediately they changed," Ms. Warsame said of her sons. "They wanted to wear shorts. They'd say, 'Buy me this.' I said, 'Where did you guys get this idea you can control me?'"

Her sons informed her that this was the way things were in America. But not in this Somali mother's house. She soon moved them back to the city, to the International Elementary School, a charter school of about 560 pupils in downtown Minneapolis founded by leaders of the city's large East African community. The extra commuting time was worth the return to the old order: five well-behaved sons, and one all-powerful mother.

Charter schools, which are publicly financed but independently run, were conceived as a

way to improve academic performance. But for immigrant families, they have also become havens where their children are shielded from the American youth culture that pervades large district schools.

The curriculum at the Twin Cities International Elementary School, and at its partner middle school and high school, is similar to that of other public schools with high academic goals. But at Twin Cities International the girls say they can freely wear head scarves without being teased, the lunchroom serves food that meets the dietary requirements of Muslims, and in every classroom there are East African teaching assistants who understand the needs of students who may have spent years in refugee camps. Twin Cities International students are from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan, with a small population from the Middle East.

Amid the wave of immigration that has been reshaping Minnesota for more than three decades, the International schools are among 30 of the state's 138 char-

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Egyptians Seethe Over Gaza, And Their Leaders Feel Heat

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN

CAIRO — Inside Al Azhar Mosque, a 1,000-year-old center of religious learning, the preacher was railing on Friday against Jews. Outside were rows of riot police officers backed by water cannons and dozens of plainclothes officers, there to prevent worshippers from charging into the street to protest against the war in Gaza.

"Muslim brothers," said the government-appointed preacher, Sheik Eid Abdel Hamid Youssef, "God has afflicted the Muslim nation with a people whom God has become angry at and whom he cursed so he made monkeys and pigs out of them. They killed prophets and messengers and sowed corruption on Earth. They are the most evil on Earth."

As the war in Gaza burned through its 14th day, Arab governments have felt their legitimacy challenged with an uncommon virulence. With each passing day, and each Palestinian death, the popularity of Hamas and other radical movements has ratcheted higher on the Arab street, while the standing of Arab leaders has suffered.

Nowhere in the Arab world is

the gap between the street and the government so wide as here in Egypt, which has a peace treaty with Israel and has refused to allow free passage of goods and people through its border with Gaza, a decision that has been attacked by Islamic and Arab leaders and proved deeply troubling

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For Arab Clan, Days of Agony In a Cross-Fire

By TAGHREED EL-KHODARY and ISABEL KERSHNER

GAZA — Israel's attack has razed buildings and upended families in much of crowded Gaza. But few neighborhoods suffered more than Zeitoun, a district of eastern Gaza City. And few families felt the wrath of the Israeli military more than the Samounis.

Israeli troops swarmed Zeitoun shortly after the ground invasion of Gaza began a week ago, and members of the extended Samouni family said they were moved from house to house as soldiers took over the neighborhood. On Monday, with nearly 100 Samounis huddled together in one house, the shooting and the shelling began, according to accounts of family members and witnesses that were partly corroborated by the Red Cross and the United Nations.

Thirty Samounis died, not all of them quickly. Ahmed al-Samouni, 16, survived.

"I could feel the blood dripping inside my head," Ahmed said, recalling the days he lay wounded in the bombed-out building. "My father was crawling — he couldn't move his legs," he said. His cousin Abdallah, 10, was trying to stand up but kept falling down; his brother Yaqoub, 12, kept removing large pieces of shrapnel from his own stomach; and his sister Amal, 9, was not moving at all. Another brother, Ishaq, 12, was wounded in the legs. He bled for two days before he died.

Ahmed, speaking from his hospital bed, said he wanted to call for help. But his mother, Laila,

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An In-Law, a Mainstay, a White House Resident

By RACHEL L. SWARNS

WASHINGTON — Over the years, several presidents have been forced to ponder the delicate (and sometimes unpleasant) question of whether to move the in-laws into the White House.

Ulysses S. Grant shared space with his father-in-law, who grumbled and squabbled with other relatives, historians say. Harry S. Truman lived with his mother-in-law, who declared that she knew "dozens of men better qualified" to preside over the Oval Office.

On Friday, the transition team of President-elect Barack Obama confirmed that his 71-year-old mother-in-law would be moving, at least temporarily, into the grand residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. While Grant and Truman might have been forgiven for gritting their teeth at such a prospect, Mr. Obama has said he will be delighted to have his wife's mother, Marian Robinson, join the first family in Washington.

After all, Mrs. Robinson, known as a loving, tough-minded



DAVID KATZ/OBAMA FOR AMERICA, VIA REUTERS

Barack Obama and Marian Robinson on election night.

matriarch who rarely shies from speaking her mind, has been the bedrock of the Obama family. During the presidential campaign, she retired from her job as a bank secretary to care for the Obama girls, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, while their parents were on the road.

She accompanied them to school and piano and dance lessons, cooked their meals, ran their baths and put them to bed. And she is expected to continue to play a critical role in the family's effort to keep the girls' lives

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BROAD JOB LOSSES AS COMPANIES FACE SHARP DOWNTURN

Unemployment Rate Highest in 16 Years — Experts See More Cuts Ahead

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

The nation lost 524,000 jobs in December, reflecting a pervasive fear among employers that if they fail to shed workers quickly their companies may go under in a recession poised to become the worst since the 1930s.

The unemployment rate, meanwhile, jumped to a 16-year-high of 7.2 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Friday. The growing army of the unemployed, at 11.1 million, is nearly 50 percent bigger than at the start of the recession a year ago.

Responding to the report, President-elect Barack Obama said Congress must enact an economic stimulus plan quickly.

The December decline in jobs came on top of similar losses in October and November. Not since 1980 has the work force shrunk so much in just three months. Companies across all industries are grappling with sales that are deteriorating rapidly just as they lose easy access to loans.

"The simplest way for a company to hoard cash is to drain their inventories and fire their workers," said Robert J. Barbera, chief economist at the Investment Technology Group, a research and trading firm, "and everywhere you look, that is what is happening."

The total number of jobs lost in the recession now totals 2.59 million, counting upward revisions for October and November, with

many more job losses expected in coming months.

Nearly as troubling, hundreds of thousands more people sought full-time work in December but could not get more than part-time jobs.

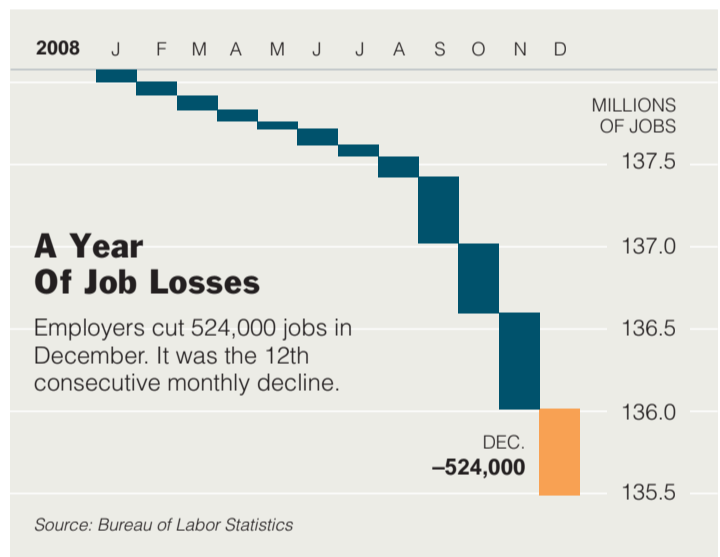
If those workers are included, the so-called total unemployment rate swelled to 13.5 percent, from 12.6 percent in November and just 8.7 percent at the start of the recession. Total unemployment includes the officially unemployed, the part-timers who seek more hours and the nearly 300,000 who would like a job but tell pollsters from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that they are too discouraged to look.

Employers in nearly every industry cut payrolls. Only health care and education bucked the trend in December, adding just 45,000 jobs combined, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Manufacturers, construction companies and retailers led all last year in eliminating jobs, and they did so again in December.

"What happened to jobs in the fourth quarter tells us unmistakably that this recession is going to be a long one and a deep one," Mr. Barbera said. "The toughest six months," he added, "will be the just-completed fourth quarter and the first quarter of this year."

The consensus view of economists surveyed by Blue Chip Eco-

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Plan to Jump-Start Economy With No Instruction Manual

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS and DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

WASHINGTON — The fresh evidence on Friday of the economy's downward spiral focused even more attention on two questions: Is the stimulus package being pushed by President-elect Barack Obama big enough? And will the component parts being assembled by Congress provide the most bang for the buck?

With the Federal Reserve having just about reached the limit of how much it can help the economy with cuts in the interest rate, Washington's ability to end or at least limit the recession depends in large part on the effectiveness of the big package of additional spending and tax cuts that Mr. Obama has made the centerpiece of his agenda.

And with the economy facing what now seems sure to be the sharpest downturn since the 1930s, the financial system balky and the government facing towering budget deficits, economists

and policy makers acknowledge that there is no playbook.

"We have very few good examples to guide us," said William G. Gale, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, the liberal-leaning research organization. "I don't know of any convincing evidence that what has been proposed is going to be enough."

In part because Mr. Obama wants and needs bipartisan support, the package is being shaped by political as well as economic imperatives, complicating the process by putting competing ideological approaches into the mix.

It includes \$300 billion in temporary tax cuts for individuals and businesses, in part to attract Republican support. It includes a big expansion of safety-net programs like unemployment insurance, which Democrats say makes both economic and social

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INTERNATIONAL A6-8

Pirates Free Supertanker

A Saudi-owned supertanker captured by pirates off the coast of Somalia in November has been released for a ransom of \$3 million, pirates say. PAGE A6

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Ex-Actor Gets 10 Years

Lillo Brancato Jr. was sentenced to prison for his role in a 2005 shooting that left a police officer dead. PAGE A15

Emergency Network in Peril

State officials may drop a \$2 billion deal for a wireless network for emergency agencies after it failed tests. PAGE A15

NATIONAL A9-14

House Acts on Pay Inequity

Taking aim at a 2007 Supreme Court ruling, the House voted to give women new tools to challenge pay inequity. PAGE A13

Illinois Governor Is Impeached

The Illinois House impeached Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich, setting the stage for a trial in the State Senate. The governor said he would be exonerated. PAGE A9



BUSINESS DAY B1-7

More Changes at Citigroup

Citigroup put its Smith Barney brokerage up for sale and said the former Treasury secretary, Robert E. Rubin, resigned as a director. PAGE B1

New Questions About a Madoff

Bernard Madoff remains free on bail as questions arise about when he told his brother of his Ponzi scheme. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-12

Busby Berkeley, Seriously

The master of wild 1930s and '40s film choreography continues to exert his influence, Gia Kourlas writes. PAGE C1

THIS WEEKEND

Finding the Treasure Within

Major but struggling art museums in Detroit, Newark and Brooklyn are trying to remain relevant by becoming "people's museums." ARTS & LEISURE

A Call To Armor

Gareth Pugh, a 27-year-old English designer, is the new defender of fashion's avant-garde. MAGAZINE



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Amphetamines in Baseball

Baseball said that 14 players tested positive for amphetamines in 2008. PAGE D5

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Bob Herbert

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ONLINE

The 44 Places to Go in 2009

Photographs, guides and articles on this year's most compelling destinations.

nytimes.com/travel

