



Wedding wows

How to look your best for the bride and groom this summer **Times2**

Every one in five: young and jobless

The Times follows six people struggling to find work

Kaya Burgess, Laura Dixon

Fears that a generation of young people could be locked out of the jobs market will be fuelled today by figures expected to show that record numbers are looking for work.

Economists forecast that there will soon be one million 16 to 24-year-olds unemployed, with little prospect of any short-term improvement given the slow rate of growth.

Amid concerns that this could create a "lost generation", *The Times* set out to chart the reality of youth joblessness today, challenging six young unemployed people to find work in two weeks with some expert help. The results showed the difficulties that they face getting jobs and how ill prepared some are for the challenge.

Siobhan Guyan, a 20-year-old aspiring dental nurse, was advised to remove her facial piercings and replace her hoody and jeans with black trousers and a blouse before taking her CV to prospective employers. The response was overwhelmingly positive. She said that she received very little help from her Jobcentre. "The Jobcentre would just say there were no jobs that day and you would be sent on your way."

Zainab Mansaray, 23, who left university last summer expecting to start a career in marketing, said that she had sent about 50 CVs with little response. "Being unemployed is difficult: I don't go out, I stay at home, I don't have any money to spend. It is depressing."

The Times put together a panel of experts to provide coaching in preparing a CV, interview technique and presentation. Chris Davies, a partner at Graduate Coach, said: "It is a crying shame that learning how to prepare yourself for the job market is not taken at least as seriously as getting a good degree."

After two weeks, Ms Mansaray said that she felt more confident and had decided to lower her sights in the short term. She is now looking for work in a call centre or unpaid work experience.

Ms Guyan said that the coaching



Siobhan Guyan, one of six young people challenged to find work in 14 days with expert help. Lost generation, pages 6, 7

Siobhan's story:
'There's no shame in asking for help, it just isn't that easy to find'

had made her much more positive. "It has been really helpful to know what mistakes I was making."

Of the six, one has now found a summer job, two have been shortlisted for interviews and a fourth has taken shifts at a meat-packing factory.

The young have been hit particularly hard since the downturn. Graduate unemployment has almost doubled

from 10.6 to 20 per cent. Brendan Barber, the TUC General Secretary, said that the country could be passing "another grim milestone" on youth joblessness.

However, John Philpott, of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, said the figures were misleading and youth unemployment was lower than in 1992 if you excluded those in full-time education looking for work.

Britain and France urge allies to boost Libya mission

Sam Coates, David Charter

Britain and France have criticised the failure of Nato allies to shoulder a bigger military role in Libya as foreign ministers gather in Doha today to question why the three-week bombing campaign has failed to oust Colonel Gaddafi.

There was the first admission yesterday that the withdrawal of US aircraft from Libyan skies was having a substantial negative impact. Carl Bildt, the Swedish Foreign Minister, said: "Let's be realistic. The fact that the US has left the kinetic part of the air operation has had a sizable impact. That is fairly obvious."

Moussa Koussa, the former Libyan Foreign Minister who defected to Britain, flew to Qatar to speak on the margins of the meeting. The trip sparked fresh questions about whether he would ever face justice and fury among MPs and victims of the Lockerbie bombing.

Pamela Dix, whose brother died at Lockerbie, said she was alarmed that he was allowed to leave the country, while the Conservative MP Robert Halfon said that Britain should not be used as a "transit lounge for alleged war criminals".

Downing Street insists that Mr Koussa is expected to return to Britain after the meeting, where it is understood he will try to establish whether he has a role to play in brokering a deal between Tripoli and the rebels in Benghazi. But the Libyan has been told that his stay in Britain is limited. "There will be an end date," a source said.

There is already an end date on his visa, although that could be extended for a limited period after a Home Office review. The source refused to speculate whether the expected departure date was weeks or months away, but emphasised that the man accused of playing a key role in organising the Lockerbie bombing had not claimed asylum and did not have any form of immunity.

Today's talks about the apparent stalemate in a divided Libya come amid growing British public scepticism about the intervention. In a *Populus* poll for *The Times*, a slim majority, 52 per cent, Continued on page 10, col 4

IN THE NEWS

Surprise inflation fall

Traders pared back expectations for interest-rate increases yesterday after official figures revealed an unexpected retreat in inflation. **Business news, page 31**

Disaster level raised

Japan was trying to quell new fears about the Fukushima crisis after an admission that nuclear radiation from the plant could exceed that emitted at Chernobyl. **News, page 3**

Domestic abuse risk

Teenage girls have become the most likely victims of domestic abuse as they are preyed on by a new generation of wife beaters, the country's top prosecutor said. **News, page 5**

Mau Mau torture

Secret documents about the Mau Mau revolt in Kenya in the 1950s implicate British officers in atrocities including the burning alive of a detainee. **News, page 15**

Palestine state closer

The prospect of a Palestinian state will edge closer as Tony Blair endorses the proposal and says Palestinians are well positioned to establish their own nation. **World, page 23**

Inside today

Hernández the hero as United win the battle of Britain



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