

weather

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TONIGHT

Dry with clear spells and glimpses of the moon.
A breezy night.

Low 7-10C (45-50F)



TOMORROW

The chance of a heavy shower but sunshine too. Breezy.

High 15-18C (59-64F)

Five-day London forecast



TOMORROW 18° Fair WEDNESDAY 21° Fair THURSDAY 21° Fair FRIDAY 19° Fair SATURDAY 19° Fair

TODAY ON A PAGE

MoD defeated over soldier's rights

● **SOLDIERS** serving abroad are protected by human rights laws, the Appeal Court ruled today in a controversial landmark judgment. Three judges dismissed Government challenges to High Court rulings over the death of Private Jason Smith, who died in Iraq while serving with the Territorial Army. Permission to take the case to the House of Lords was granted on condition that the Secretary of State for Defence pays the legal costs, win or lose. Solicitor Jocelyn Cockburn, representing Pte Smith's family, said: "We are delighted. The proposition of the Ministry of Defence that these rights should be removed when soldiers are abroad

on active service doesn't reflect well on our Government." Lawyers for Defence Secretary John Hutton had urged the judges to overturn a ruling by Mr Justice Collins in April last year that sending soldiers out on patrol with defective equipment could amount to a breach of their human rights. The case was brought by the Defence Ministry over comments made at an inquest into the death of Pte Smith, 32, who died of heatstroke in Iraq in 2003. Andrew Walker, Oxfordshire's assistant deputy coroner, recorded at the inquest that his death was caused "by a serious failure to recognise and address the difficulty he had in adjusting to the climate".



Victim: Jason Smith

Tamils mass in defiant Parliament protest



Protest: a Tamil boy today

● **POLICE** estimate 1,000 Tamil protesters gathered in Parliament Square today as the Sri Lankan army claimed final victory over separatists. An ongoing presence has been maintained outside Parliament after thousands staged a sit-down protest and blocked roads last month. Police said

the protests remained peaceful. A breakaway group of 200 protestors today also went on to march on the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square. Meanwhile, the fight against knife crime is being hit by the demands of policing public order events such as G20 and the Tamil protests, Met chief

Sir Paul Stephenson warned Londoners today. He said that the scale and unpredictability of the Tamil protests outside Parliament was diverting resources from fighting crime in every category across the capital.

TAMIL LEADER KILLED : PAGE FOUR

Swine flu private school is closed

● **A PRIVATE** girls' school in London was shut today on the Health Protection Agency's advice because of swine flu. Lady Eleanor Holles in Hampton is closed for a week, while Barnes Primary School in Richmond, Eaton Square Nursery, Westminster, and Blackheath Preparatory School, Greenwich, remain shut. London's confirmed cases now stand at 57, out of 92 across England. In New York a school assistant principal became the city's first swine flu-linked death. Michael Wiener, 55, was admitted to hospital several days ago.

What a grape way to start the week!

A MODEL painted with fruit and veg poses in the window of Tibits restaurant, Mayfair, today to mark the start of National Vegetarian Week.

