

PROVINCE



CP photo

OFF TO THE GULF — Well-wishers watch the HMCS Ottawa sail past Clover Point near Victoria on Sunday as the ship heads off to the Arabian Gulf. The troops will be gone for about six months.

Clark trial should hear wiretap evidence today

VANCOUVER (CP) — The trial of former B.C. premier Glen Clark is expected to begin hearing wiretap evidence on Monday.

For the past two weeks, the court has heard from undercover officers who conducted a surveillance operation that observed Clark meeting his friend and neighbour Dimitrios Pilarinos.

The surveillance evidence is expected to put some of the wiretap phone calls in context.

Clark faces charges for breach of trust and accepting a benefit in relation to the government's issuing of a provisional casino licence to Pilarinos.

The Crown alleges Clark, who resigned after the investigation was revealed, received renovations to his Vancouver home and an Okanagan cottage in exchange for helping Pilarinos and his business partner obtain the licence.

Michael Farnworth, a former B.C. cabinet minister who was in charge of gaming at that time, is expected to testify later in the trial.

The Crown alleges Pilarinos, a building contractor, did about \$10,000

worth of free work for Clark.

The former premier's lawyers claimed that Clark and his wife paid all the invoices submitted by Pilarinos.

Clark resigned as premier in August 1999, five months after police raided his home looking for documents to try to determine whether he had received free renovations from Pilarinos.

Pilarinos faces nine charges at trial, including the allegation that he offered Clark a benefit as consideration for Clark's assistance and influence in the granting of a casino licence.

He is also accused of offering Clark a share in the casino proceeds.

the Bay

CORRECTION NOTICE

In our 1-3W Top 10 of the Weekender flyer, on page 2, women's Outline sport & casual socks are 3 for \$5.99. Women's Outline dress socks are 2 for \$5.99. On page 4, Save 10% on candy and fine foods offer excludes Godiva.
Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. 345710

Rumours of doc dispute ending have been greatly exaggerated

VICTORIA (CP) — The B.C. Medical Association denies a newspaper report that a backroom agreement reached Friday has put an end to its ongoing arbitration process with the government.

The Victoria Times Colonist reported Sunday that doctors would receive an 11 per cent pay raise but not be allowed to bargain for more.

Government and medical sources told the newspaper that B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell attended a Friday meeting with the association, where it was decided the current arbitration process would be shut down.

But Dr. Heidi Oetter, association president, said Sunday that she believes the process is going ahead.

"There has been no official response from the government and it is our absolute 100 per cent expectation that this government must implement the arbitrator's report," said Oetter.

Former chief justice Allan McEachern awarded the province's 8,000 doctors a retroactive interim 11.3 per cent pay hike over two years on Feb. 9.

It was part of the initial phase of a binding arbitration process begun under the former NDP government.

The finance minister said the government would have to borrow money or raise medicare premiums by up to 70 per cent to cover the award.

Doctors have argued for a 28 per cent raise over four years and they hoped the second phase of arbitration would bring wage parity with their counterparts in neighbouring Alberta.

A full-time doctor in B.C. earns an average gross income of \$249,000 a year, compared to \$260,000 in Alberta.

The government will breach the binding nature of the arbitration process if it pulls out of the second phase, Oetter told the Times Colonist.

"I don't know what the membership would do if the government chose to walk away from the binding nature of this," she said. "The interim award Mr. McEachern came down with does not give us parity with Alberta," said Oetter.

In August, the government recalled the legislature to impose a contract on nurses and members of the Health Sciences Association, which includes pharmacists, occupational therapists and technicians.

Nurses were given a raise of 23.5 per cent over three years. The Health Sciences Association got raises of 5.5 to 14.25 per cent.

In January, the legislature was recalled again and existing contracts with hospital and home care workers were reopened to strip some of their provisions, including future raises the government argued would add hundreds of millions in costs and make it difficult to lay off or reassign staff.

Police move search to house on pig farm

PORT COQUITLAM (CP) — Police have begun searching a house on a pig farm at the centre of an investigation into the disappearance of 50 women from Vancouver's downtown eastside.

The farmhouse was not included in the initial search warrant for the 4.5-hectare farm.

While police in white suits went through the house taking photographs and making notes on the weekend, trailers were brought in to provide sleeping quarters for the dozens of officers involved.

The joint RCMP-Vancouver police investigation is into its second week of a painstaking search of the property, which consists of a collection of out-buildings, construction debris and junked cars.

Most of the 50 women who disappeared between 1983 and late 2001 worked as prostitutes in the seedy downtown eastside of Vancouver.

No charges have yet been laid in the investigation and police say the two brothers who own the farm are not considered suspects at this point.

Mom charged with murdering baby

VANCOUVER (CP) — Neighbours of a woman charged with second-degree murder after the death of her baby say she was frantic with worry while waiting for an ambulance.

One described how Darlene Trick, 28, thrust her five-month-old son, Brandyn Samson, into his arms on Thursday morning.

"She was yelling, 'My baby is dying' and she handed me the baby, but it wasn't breathing," said Mustapha Odaa.

"He was limp and blue and his head

was turned backwards," he added.

The child was rushed to B.C. Children's Hospital in an ambulance but died shortly after arrival.

Trick was charged Saturday with second-degree murder.

And in a strange twist, Trick also faces a charge of impaired driving as a result of an accident involving the ambulance. The vehicle was taken over as her son was being transported and subsequently "crashed into a front end-loader at children's hospital," said police.

News tip? 562-2441, Local 382



Travel Clinic

with John Lovell of Trafalgar Tours

Talk to one of the leading experts on travel and touring in Europe. Let John prescribe the perfect "cure tour" for you.

1:00 - 5:00 PM
Appointment
Recommended

TRAFALGAR'S



Information Evening

- Presentations
- Video Clips
- Questions Answered
- Current Travel Information and Brochures

Guest Presenter: John Lovell - Trafalgar Tours

7:00 PM

Refreshments & Door Prizes
Please RSVP - (Limited Seating)

Call 563-0191
492 Victoria Street



Reg. No. 268-4

FIRST 50!
NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 2002

\$0 DOWN \$29.95 MONTHLY
(No Commitment Membership)

NEW EQUIPMENT

- BIKES
- TREADMILLS
- STEPPERS
- STRENGTH

NEW AEROBICS FLOOR
NEW DAYCARE

24 HOUR FITNESS
1533 2nd Avenue
561-0557