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Obstruction of justice vs. Failon, 5 others



BEHIND LOCKED DOORS The private bath of this bedroom on the second floor of the Failon residence is where the shooting of Ted Failon's wife happened on the morning of April 15. Failon (wearing red cap) recounted that when he arrived from his radio shows, this room was locked and he asked a maid to get the key.
Inquirer.net Photo by Raffy Lerma

by ABIGAIL KWOK & THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Police charged with obstruction of justice television news anchor Ted Failon and five others on the night of April 16 shortly after his wife died from complications due to a gunshot wound to the head, officials said.

The charge stemmed from the alleged failure of Failon, Teodoro Etong in real life, and his co-accused to immediately report the shooting incident at his home that fatally wounded his wife, Trinidad Etong, and for tampering with the crime scene.

Etong expired at the New Era General Hospital at 8:50pm, Thursday, April 16, due to complications from penetrating cranial missile injury, or a bullet wound to the head, her attending physician, Adonis Gascon, told reporters.

Over an hour after Etong died, police

charged Failon, his sister-in-law Pamela Arteche, and house helpers Pacifico Apacible, Carlota Morbos, Wilfreda Bolliser, and Glen Palan before the Quezon City prosecutor's office, said Senior Superintendent Franklin Mabanag, the city police's criminal investigation chief.

Mabanag said Failon, who was at his wife's death bed, was considered "at large" because he was not present during the inquest.

Arteche, Apacible, Mobos, Bolliser, and Palan were placed under police custody,

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Failon wife dies in hospital-doctor

by ABIGAIL KWOK
Inquirer.net

MANILA—The wife of television news anchor Ted Failon died at the hospital on the night of April 16, a day after she was shot in the head inside their home in Quezon City, her attending physician said.

Trinidad Etong, 44, expired due to complications from penetrating cranial missile injury, or a bullet wound to the head, at the New Era General Hospital at 8:50pm, said Doctor Adonis Gascon.

Gascon told reporters that there was a "less than five percent" chance for survival among patients who suffer gun shot wounds to the head.

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Pacquiao: Speed will be the key

LOS ANGELES—THERE is an air of confidence in the Wildcard Gym. As the Pride of the Philippines Manny Pacquiao prepares for a 140-pound Lightweight championship match against the titleholder, the Pride of Manchester Ricky Hatton, trainer Freddie Roach, trainer Nonoy Neri and other members of Team Pacquiao, are expecting an easy Pacquiao victory.

"You know how Manny usually wears white shorts (during the fight), I already told Manny to wear red shorts that night," said Roach during the media day workout on Wednesday, April 15. "There's going to be a lot of blood, and it won't be from Manny."

"All Manny has to do is fight smart," added Neri. "Hatton is easy to hit."

For Team Pacquiao, there's a lot to be confident about. After an undefeated 2008 campaign that ended with the dismantling of The Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya last December, Pacquiao is on top of the boxing world. He's arguably the pound-4-



Manny Pacquiao in training with Freddie Roach.
AJPress Photo by Joseph Pimentel

pound boxing king and now, fans of all type are flocking to him more than ever.

All that one has to do is to watch that fight against De La Hoya to see how quick, elusive and impressive Pacquiao was during that fight.

It's the same blueprint that Roach and Neri expect from Pacquiao come fight night against Hatton.

For the record, Hatton has said in a

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AN ASIAN JOURNAL EXCLUSIVE

Charice brings down Dodger Stadium

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

LOS ANGELES—She didn't just bring down the house. She brought down the whole stadium.

Filipina singer Charice received a standing ovation from a record setting crowd after singing the National Anthem at the Los Angeles Dodgers stadium at Chavez Ravine on Monday, April 13.

It was the Dodger's opening day, the beginning of the team's new Major League Baseball season. More than 57,000 fans were in attendance.

Charice sang the National Anthem while 150 members of the Armed Services spread out a US flag that covered the entire outfield. A B-2 bomber then flew over the stadium and blue and white confetti streamed down to the stands.

And the fans loved Charice's performance.



Charice flashes a smile before singing at the Dodger Stadium.
AJPress Photo by Joseph Pimentel

Many fans in the dugout club (the seats right behind homeplate where she performed) walked towards the aisle to congratulate Charice on a well-done performance.

"Unbelievable," said an elderly woman who stopped Charice and gave her a hug. "What a performance. It brought tears to my eyes."

Despite having such a stellar performance, Charice remained humble.

She said she had butterflies in her stomach before heading out to the field. This is the first time she ever sang the *Star Spangled Banner*, she said.

"I think the people enjoyed it," said Charice in Tagalog to the *Asian Journal*.

Charice arrived in Los Angeles late Sunday night (April 12), and through the help of Atty. Michael Gurfinkel and his wife, Millie, the *Asian Journal* was given the chance to get an exclusive interview.

Still a bit jet lagged, she said she tried to stay awake by playing the Sony PSP and listening to the *Star Spangled Banner* lyrics over and over.

"I am still a bit sleepy because of the time

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The Golden Boy retires



Photo by Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos/Golden Boy Promotions

LOS ANGELES—The Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya announced his retirement Tuesday, April 14.

In front of friends, associates, fans and even Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villarigosa, De La Hoya said that he's hanging up his gloves and will focus on "creating a legacy outside the ring."



"The last four months have been difficult for me. I'm announcing my retirement from the sport of boxing," said De La Hoya, who choked up several times as he made the announcement at a noon press conference in Nokia Plaza LA Live in downtown Los Angeles. "I've been doing this since I was five years old. This is the love of my life. Boxing is my passion. When I can't compete at a high level, it's not fair to me, not fair to the fans, not fair to anyone... I've come to the conclusion that it's over in the ring for me."

De La Hoya is one of the most decorated and financially successful boxers in the

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Remittances rose 4.9% to \$1.32B in Feb.

Deployment of workers up, layoffs easing

by RONNEL DOMINGO
Inquirer.net

REMITTANCES coursed through banks grew 4.9 percent in February to \$1.32 billion as more workers were sent abroad while the rise in layoffs eased, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said last April 14.

This meant an improvement from the 0.1-percent growth of inflows posted in January when remittances reached \$1.27 billion.

For the first two months of 2009, inflows rose 2.5 percent to \$2.59 billion from \$2.52 billion a year ago.

The major sources of remittances in January and February were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Italy and the United Arab Emirates.

"Remittances have been holding up as deployment of overseas Filipino workers has risen during the first two months of the year while the increase in the number of reported layoffs has slowed down," BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

Tetangco cited preliminary data from the Philippine

Overseas Employment Administration showing that the total number of workers deployed overseas in January and February grew 27.3 percent year-on-year to 283,348 from 222,608.

He also cited a report from the Department of Labor and Employment saying the Philippines would renew the labor arrangement with South Korea under the Employment Permit System.

The government has also intensified efforts to redeploy retrenched overseas Filipino workers to countries that have not been severely affected by the global financial turmoil.

This is in addition to hiring agreements forged with some host countries like Canada, Australia, Japan and Middle East countries that are expected to open job opportunities in the sectors of healthcare, education, power and energy, and real estate.

"Commercial banks' continued expansion of their international and domestic market coverage to capture a larger share of the global remittance market has also helped to sustain the inflow of remittances," Tetangco said.

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