

LEARN THE NEWS

(Formerly: The Times I Am Living In)

English Edition

This publication is sponsored by the Open Society for South Africa (OSF-SA)

Thursday 15 April 2010

Issue: 023/10



OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTH AFRICA



Dear Readers,

Poland, where the President and his wife will be buried on Sunday after being killed in an air crash in Russia;

The Democratic Republic of Congo, where rebels from

Rwanda are tired of hiding in the forests and are heading home;

Brazil, where the director of "Avatar" is fighting against a dam project in the Amazon;

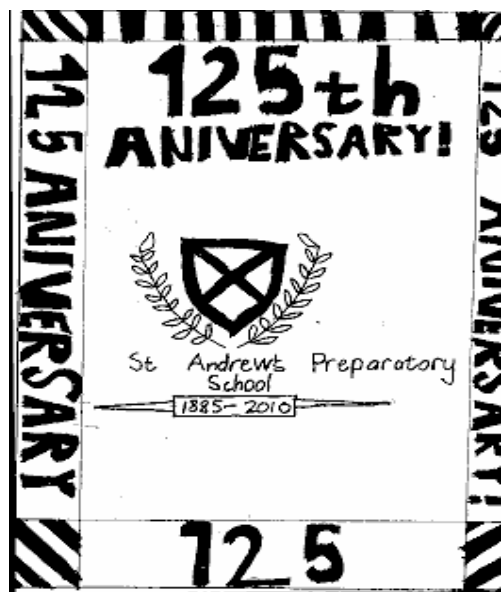
South Africa, where there's

been a counterfeit Bafana Bafana T-shirt bust ahead of the World Cup; and

Japan, where an overzealous dad is in trouble over his behaviour around the boxing ring.

Thanks also to the investment fund company, Brait, for assisting in funding Learn the News. (www.brait.com)

Many thanks to the pupils at **St Andrew's Preparatory School in Grahamstown** and their teacher, **Marc Paul**, for illustrating this issue. Visit the school at <http://www.saprepschool.com/1/home.html>



Callum Southey (Gr. 6)

NOTICE

Once again, please make an extra print out of this FREE publication if you can to pass on to people without access to e-mail. It's also available in AFRIKAANS and isiZULU.

Western Cape readers, don't forget to look out for Siphos, the cartoon character who is roving journalist, in the *Jellybean Journal* supplement of the *Weekend Argus*!

All the best,

Duncan Guy

www.learnthenews.com

WORLD NEWS

Poland's President and his wife will be buried on Sunday after the aircraft in which they were travelling crashed in Russia at the weekend. Many people in Poland have been very sad about this crash. Other top people in Poland's government were also killed.

Quick quiz ... Which other Polish leader was also killed in a plane crash?

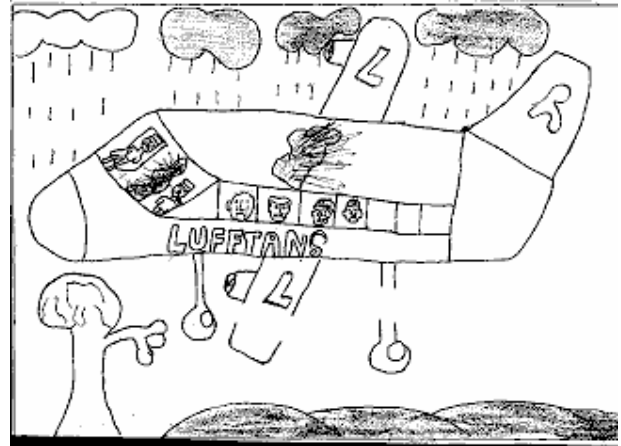
What is special about the cathedral in which Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, will be buried?

POLAND MOURNS AS PRESIDENT AND WIFE LIE IN STATE WARSAW Sapa-AP
Thousands of grieving mourners tossed flowers at a slow-moving **hearse** or joined an enormous viewing line at the presidential palace to pay their respects on Tuesday to Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife as their bodies **lay in state**.

Kaczynski and his wife Maria Kaczynska were among 96 people killed on Saturday in a plane crash in western Russia. Investigators are pointing to human error as the cause. Mourners knelt, prayed and cried before the first couple's closed coffins in the Columned Hall of the palace, where the president appointed and dismissed governments. The line to get in swelled to over a kilometre long but the mourners were not deterred.

"We will wait as long as it takes," said Alicja Marszalek, a retired telephone operator waiting with a friend. "We want to **pay homage** to them because they were wonderful people. He was a **modest** man, very well educated, intelligent and

kind."



Ngoni Maroyi (Gr. 6)

Polish television broadcast live images of mourners walking by the coffins. Many were families with children, parents and grandparents. Each coffin was flanked by a pair of soldiers, standing crisp and stone-like.

Earlier Tuesday, Kaczynska's body was greeted with tears and tulips after being flown home from Russia, and officials announced that the first couple will be buried on Sunday in a state funeral at **Krakow's** Wawel Cathedral.

Stanislaw Kracik, Krakow province governor, said the presidential couple will receive a funeral at 2pm on Sunday in the 1,000-year-old cathedral -- the main burial site of Polish monarchs since the 14th century.

The last Polish leader killed in office, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, the **exiled** World War II leader who perished in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943, is also **interred** there. Leaders expected for the funeral include Russian President Dmitri Medvedev.

Kaczynska's body, in a wooden casket draped with Poland's white-and-red flag, arrived in a military CASA plane at Warsaw's Okecie airport. It was met by her only child, Marta, and by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, her brother-in-law who was also the twin of the late president. 15/4/10

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Her daughter knelt by the casket and wept as a Polish guard of honour stood by.

Kaczynska's body was then ferried slowly to the Presidential Palace in the back of a black Mercedes-Benz hearse, just like her husband's was on Sunday. Thousands of Warsaw residents lined the route, gently lobbing bouquets of tulips and roses on top of the hearse.

"I'm here because it's such a tragedy for Poland," said Maja Jelenicka, 63. "I'm in despair. I feel as if I've lost a close relative. Maria Kaczynska was a wonderful woman, kind, with a heart of gold." Parliament held a special observance in memory of the president and the 18 lawmakers killed in the plane crash. In the assembly hall, framed portraits of the lawmakers and flowers bedecked their now-empty seats.

The names of the victims were read out, and Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz, his voice breaking, declared the crash the "greatest tragedy in Poland's **post-war** history."

Investigators have suggested that human error may have been to blame in Saturday's crash that killed the Polish president and 95 others. The **Tu-154** went down while trying to land in dense fog at Smolensk in western Russia. All aboard were killed, including Kaczynski and dozens of Polish political, military and religious leaders.

They had been travelling in the Polish government-owned plane to attend a memorial in the nearby Katyn forest for thousands of Polish military officers executed 70 years ago by **Josef Stalin's** secret police.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Tuesday there was no explosion or fire on the plane and the engines were working normally. "Judging by **preliminary analysis** of **data** from the **black boxes**, there was no explosion or fire aboard the plane, and the engines were working until the collision," Ivanov said in televised remarks.

The pilot had been warned of bad weather in Smolensk, and was advised by traffic controllers

to land elsewhere -- which would have delayed the Katyn observances. He was identified as Capt. Arkadiusz Protasiuk, 36, and the co-pilot as Maj. Robert Grzywna, 36.

Traffic controller Anatoly Muravyev, part of the Russian team that handled the plane, told the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper that the crew ignored their warnings about worsening weather at the Smolensk airport.

The crew "started landing with confidence and with no swerving," Muravyev was quoted as saying. "But then the traffic controllers had doubts (about the weather)." He said the head controller three times ordered the plane to reattempt the landing and then advised the pilot to fly to another airport.

"The crew did not listen, although the controllers warned them about bad **visibility** and told them to get ready to fly to a reserve airport," he said. Polish Prosecutor General Andrzej Seremet said Polish prosecutors were still reviewing data from the flight recorders and would discuss their findings on Thursday. So far, 87 bodies have been recovered and 40 of them identified, he said.

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Thousands of grieving mourners tossed flowers at a slow-moving **hearse** or joined an enormous viewing line at the presidential palace to pay their respects on Tuesday to Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife as their bodies **lay in state**.

A hearse is a long car used to transport coffins to and from funerals.

If the body of a dead person lies in state, it is on display so that people can see the body as a way of paying respect to the dead person.

"We want to **pay homage** to them because they were wonderful people.

To pay homage to someone means to show them great honour.

He was a **modest** man, very well educated, intelligent and kind."

Someone who is modest does not boast and brag and act as if they consider themselves to be ridiculously important.

Earlier Tuesday, Kaczynska's body was greeted with tears and tulips after being flown home from Russia, and officials announced that the first couple will be buried on Sunday in a state funeral at **Krakow's** Wawel Cathedral.

Krakow is Poland's second largest city and a very important cultural centre.

The last Polish leader killed in office, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, the **exiled** World War II leader who perished in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943, is also **interred** there.

When people go into exile they choose to leave their home country while conditions are very difficult for them to live there. They usually plan to return home when things get better and often do what they can towards helping their countries get better while they are away.

When a dead person's body is interred it is buried in a grave.

The names of the victims were read out, and Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz, his voice breaking, declared the crash the "greatest tragedy in Poland's **post-war** history."

Post-war means after a certain war. In this case it's World War 2. During World War 2, Poland was split into two when it was invaded by Nazi Germany and by the Soviet Union. After World War 2, the Soviet Union forced Poland to have a communist government. A trade union movement, called Solidarity, grew very strong and eventually the communist government was overthrown.

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They had been travelling in the Polish government-owned plane to attend a memorial in **Tu-154** the nearby Katyn forest for thousands of Polish military officers executed 70 years ago by **Josef Stalin's** secret police.

A Tu-154 is an aircraft made by the Russian aircraft company, Tupolev. It's a plane that can travel very fast and can also land on gravel airfields as well as in the very cold areas of northern Russia.

Josef Stalin was the leader of the Soviet Union between 1941 and 1953. He had grand plans to change the country by developing lots of industries and changing the ways of farming. Many of his grand agricultural plans failed and there was even famine. He was also brutal when it came to people whom he feared were against him and he ordered many people to be killed and imprisoned.

Among the people whose deaths Stalin ordered were more than 20,000 Polish people, including army officers who had been captured when the Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War 2.

"Judging by **preliminary analysis** of **data** from the **black boxes**, there was no explosion or fire aboard the plane, and the engines were working until the collision," Ivanov said in televised remarks.

A preliminary analysis is a first look at something.

Data means information that has been collected.

The black box of an aircraft has recordings of all the moves made by the pilot and the aircraft. People always look for the black box after an accident so that these recordings can help give an idea of what caused the crash.

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AFRICA NEWS

Sixteen years ago many people were killed in a country in Africa called Rwanda.

Many people fled, first to towns in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and then into the forests.

Now, many of them are tired of living in the forests and they are starting to go home to Rwanda.

Quick quiz ... What is the name of the rebel group for which many Rwandans who fled into the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo have been fighting?

Why do rebels who give up living in the forests keep it a secret that they plan to return to Rwanda?

DESERTING RWANDA REBELS TIRED OF DRCONGO FOREST HIDEOUTS

GOMA, DR Congo Sapa-AFP

Young mother and former **Hutu** rebel fighter Epiphany Mukamana did a little jig when she told of her pleasure at being able to escape her one-time base in the dense forest.

"I am happy to have left the forest, I was tired," said the 26-year-old at a United Nations camp in the city of Goma in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mukamana arrived recently with her 10-year-old son, deserting the ranks of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) for a chance to be **repatriated** to her homeland across the border under a UN programme.

A handful of former Rwandan combatants have turned up in recent days at the camp in Goma, the main centre in the **Nord-Kivu** province.



Michael Turner (Gr. 6)

A Congolese army operation against the FDLR, launched in Nord- and Sud-Kivu in March 2009, had pushed the rebels out of the cities and villages they set up years earlier in the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan **genocide**.

They were forced to abandon their fields, livestock and small businesses to hide out in the remote forests. They were safer there, but life was considerably more difficult.

"We had to loot, to steal to eat. It was tiring. That is why I left," said Mukamana.

John Musabuyimana, 40, served in the mortar division of a battalion at an FDLR headquarters set up in the Ntoto forest about 100 kilometres west of Goma.

Along with his wife and children aged three and six, he made it to a camp of the UN's Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Reinstallation programme several days ago.

"For resupplies, we attacked Congolese army positions," he said.

"Then we salvaged rations and ammunition.

"The fighters also had the right to go and do business, like in **palm oil**, for two months and then to return.

"But at the start of 2009, it became harder to live in the forest, and we had less freedom.

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"To dissuade would-be deserters, FDLR officers - some of whom have been accused of participating in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda -- warned their troops that they would be killed or jailed if they returned home to Rwanda.

"If we are stopped in the process of fleeing, we are considered like one of the enemy," said Saidi Dahimana, 26, a former corporal in the same rebel battalion.

"We could be whipped, imprisoned, even killed," he said.

"When you decide to leave, you must not tell anyone, it has to stay secret," added the young man.

He said he had left with his wife because he was "tired of the forest".

All the former fighters denied that the FDLR was exploiting the region's considerable mineral wealth, **contradicting** several reports from UN agencies and non-government organisations.

GLOSSARY

Young mother and former **Hutu** rebel fighter Epiphany Mukamana did a little jig when she told of her pleasure at being able to escape her one-time base in the dense forest.

The Hutu people are the majority of people who live in both Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi. In 1994, Hutu people in Rwanda rose up and killed many Tutsi people as well as their fellow Hutu people who were friendly with Tutsi people. Afterwards, millions of Hutu people fled into the Democratic Republic of Congo, next door, and formed rebel groups.

Mukamana arrived recently with her 10-year-old son, deserting the ranks of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) for a chance to be **repatriated** to her homeland across the border under a UN programme.

To be repatriated means to be taken from the country where you have been living and settled back in your own country.

A handful of former Rwandan combatants have turned up in recent days at the camp in Goma, the main centre in the **Nord-Kivu** province.

Nord-Kivu is a province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nord-Kivu, which means North Kivu, is on the northern shore of Lake Kivu, which is half in Rwanda, half in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The province of Sud-Kivu, which means South Kivu, is on the southern shore of the lake. Can you find it on a map?

A Congolese army operation against the FDLR, launched in Nord- and Sud-Kivu in March 2009, had pushed the rebels out of the cities and villages they set up years earlier in the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan **genocide**.

A genocide is an attempt to wipe out an entire community of people.

"The fighters also had the right to go and do business, like in **palm oil**, for two months and then to return.

Palm oil is a vegetable oil made from the nuts of palm trees, which are grown a lot in areas of the world near the Equator.

All the former fighters denied that the FDLR was exploiting the region's considerable mineral wealth, **contradicting** several reports from UN agencies and non-government organisations.

To contradict somebody means to say something is completely different to what that person had said. People can also contradict themselves!

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ENVIRONMENT NEWS

You may have watched, or heard about, the movie "Avatar". It's about people on a moon who were under threat from people on Earth who want to mine for minerals on their property.

The man who made this film, and one of the actors, has been in Brazil to persuade the government not to build a dam in the Amazon jungle. He believes it would be bad for the environment.

People who have always lived in this part of the Amazon don't want the dam to be built because they will lose their home country.

Quick quiz ... What is the name of the dam that Brazil has started to build in the Amazon jungle?

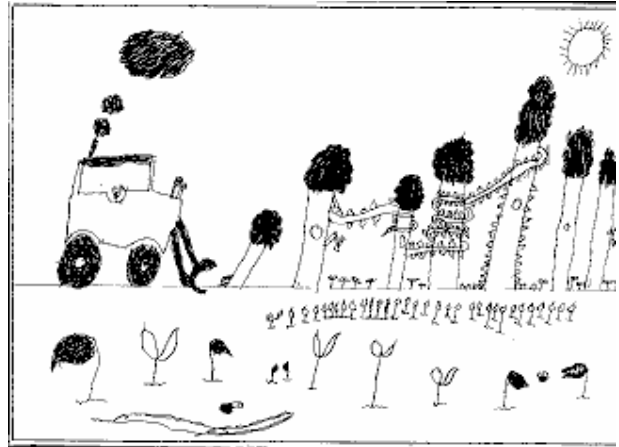
What is it that makes James Cameron believe the knowledge of indigenous people in the Amazon is so special?

'AVATAR' DIRECTOR CAMERON URGES LULA TO STOP DAM PROJECT
BRASILIA Sapa-AFP

Director James Cameron was in Brazil this week to lend his "Avatar" success to the fight against a controversial dam project he denounced as an "ecological disaster." Cameron, who made a pro-environment message central to his blockbuster film, urged Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da

Silva to stop construction on the Belo Monte dam in the country's Amazon jungle.

"I would challenge him to be a hero" by halting work on the project, Cameron told a media conference in Brasilia alongside US actress Sigourney Weaver, who acted in "Avatar" and his movie "Alien."



Theodore Nchindo (Gr. 6)

Activists have been keen to portray the construction of the dam, and opposition to it by **indigenous people** who would be displaced by it, as strikingly similar to the "Avatar" storyline, in which **feline**-featured natives on a moon fight against militaristic **strip-miners** from Earth. Cameron, who has long had a fascination with **marine** and jungle environments, said: "Huge dams are a 20th century idea in the 21st century: it's a dinosaur's idea."

Belo Monte, he said, "is going to be an ecological disaster," and asserted that "the knowledge of indigenous people, who learned how to live with nature" is one of Brazil's biggest resources.

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Indigenous people are people who have always lived in a place and whose ancestors were not known to have arrived there from somewhere else.

Feline means cat-like.

Strip mining involves removing all the soil, rocks and other things on the surface of the ground to reach minerals, unlike digging a deep hole into the ground to get to them.

Cameron, who has long had a fascination with **marine** and jungle environments, said: "Huge dams are a 20th century idea in the 21st century: it's a dinosaur's idea."

Marine means to do with the sea.

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Editor	Duncan Guy	E-mail:	duncan@sapa.org.za
Sub-editor:	Gillian Jones	Copyright:	SAPA
Media sponsor:	SA Press Association (SAPA)	Articles	Sapa; Sapa-AP; Sapa-AFP
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BUSINESS NEWS

With the World Cup coming soon, lots of people in South Africa are buying and wearing T-shirts that look like those worn by the national football team, Bafana Bafana. There are special laws that allow certain people to make them. This week police found a truck with thousands of shirts made to look exactly like the Bafana Bafana shirts.

Had they been sold in South Africa, all the Bafana Bafana shirts would have become a lot cheaper because so many would have been available. People who are allowed to make them could have made a lot less money.

This could also have hurt business in South Africa.

Quick quiz ... Where exactly was the truck full of Bafana Bafana T-shirts found?

Can you work out from the value of the clothing that was found, more or less how many South African rands there are to the United States dollar?

SAFRICAN POLICE SEIZE FAKE WCUP FOOTBALL SHIRTS

JOHANNESBURG Sapa-AP

South African police have seized nearly 12,000 counterfeit South Africa football team shirts. Police spokesman Colonel Vishnu Naidoo said this week that they were worth R3.6 million (US \$493,000) and part of an overall haul of

counterfeit clothing worth R3.8 million (US \$520,000) found in a truck at the Swaziland border on Saturday.



Nikos Aylett (Gr. 6)

Naidoo said the goods had originated from China and would have "dented" South Africa's economy if not detected.

Shirts for the country's national team, known as Bafana Bafana, are becoming increasingly popular in the run-in to the June 11 start of the World Cup in South Africa.

Naidoo said police had informed **FIFA** and the tournament's local organising committee.

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BUSINESS NEWS

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South African police have seized nearly 12,000 **counterfeit** South Africa football team shirts.

Something that is counterfeit is a copy of something else and would have been produced with the idea of it being used by people who would think it was “the real thing”.

Naidoo said police had informed **FIFA** and the tournament's local organising committee.

FIFA is the organisation in charge of world soccer, including the World Cup. It stands for Fédération Internationale de Football Association, which is French for International Federation of Association Football.

SPORT NEWS

The dad of three of Japan's most famous boxers is in trouble for getting too carried away at boxing matches.

He has behaved in an unsporting way towards other people.

Now, he may no longer attend boxing fights.

Quick quiz ... What does Shiro Kameda's eldest son feel about his father since he has been trouble?

What was wrong about the advice Shiro Kameda gave his son, Daiki, three years ago?

BOXING: JAPANESE CHAMP'S DAD BARRED OVER RINGSIDE TIRADE
TOKYO Sapa-AFP

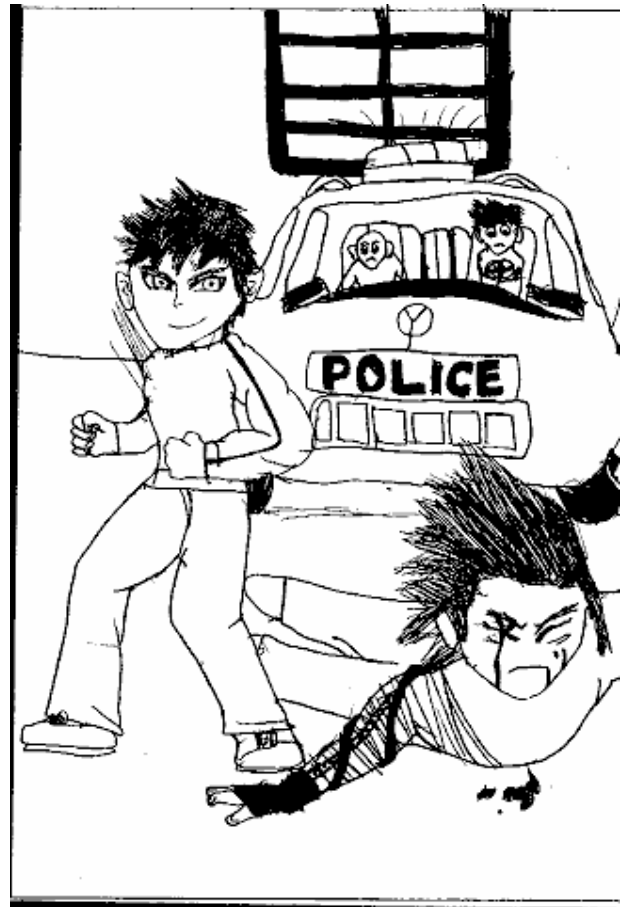
The father of World Boxing Association **flyweight** champion Daiki Kameda was this week banned from attending **bouts** in Japan after he abused officials in a ringside outburst.

Shiro Kameda, the father of three of Japan's best-known boxers, also lost his **cornerman's** licence when the Japan Boxing Commission barred him from all bouts in Japan, whether at ringside, in the dressing room or as a spectator.

"He has committed **intimidation**, which is a menacing antisocial act," JBC executive secretary Tsuyoshi Yasukochi said after the commission's **ethics** committee decided to act against Kameda. "We unanimously adopted the severe measures," Yasukochi said, adding that the commission would also reject any application from Kameda for any other kind of boxing licence.

Kameda, 44, who has trained his three sons to become boxers, erupted in anger when 23-year-old Koki, his eldest son, lost his World Boxing Council flyweight crown to Thailand's

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam in Tokyo on March 27. Kameda was heard abusing referee Guadalupe Garcia, WBC supervisor Edward Thangarajah and the JBC secretary Yasukochi in the dressing room.



Linda Mngadi (Gr. 6)

Using strong language, Kameda wrongfully claimed that the referee should have deducted two points from the Thai boxer for head-butting in the fifth round. The referee deducted only one point after telling Kameda's side by mistake that the Thai had deserved to lose two. Kameda also yelled at Yasukochi, who served as a WBC supervisor at the bout, telling him: 15/4/10

SPORT NEWS

"You will know what happens if you make me mad. I will have your head. You hear me, stupid!?" The World Boxing Commission has also taken action against Kameda for **tarnishing** the image of boxing, and has **summoned** him to a hearing in Mexico City on Monday and Tuesday. Kameda is visiting the city at the moment.

The commission had already barred Kameda indefinitely as cornerman after he told his second son, Daiki, to fight dirty in his failed attempt at a world title in 2007.

Daiki, now 21, was suspended for a year but came back to become the World Boxing Association flyweight champion by scoring more points than Thailand's Denkaosen Kaowichit in Kobe in February.

"For us, our dad is the best dad in the world," Koki Kameda said in his blog Tuesday. "We will work hard and make his life easier."

GLOSSARY

The father of World Boxing Association **flyweight** champion Daiki Kameda was this week banned from attending **bouts** in Japan after he abused officials in a ringside outburst.

Boxers fight against opponents who are much the same weight. The flyweight section of boxing involves boxers who weigh around 50 kilograms.

A bout means a match.

Shiro Kameda, the father of three of Japan's best-known boxers, also lost his **cornerman's** licence

when the Japan Boxing Commission barred him from all bouts in Japan, whether at ringside, in the dressing room or as a spectator.

In boxing, a cornerman is someone who stays on the edge of the ring during the fight, to help the boxer.

"He has committed **intimidation**, which is a menacing antisocial act," JBC executive secretary Tsuyoshi Yasukochi said after the commission's **ethics** committee decided to act against Kameda.

Intimidation means forcing someone to do something against their will by making them scared.

Ethics are the right and wrong things to do when participating in different activities. There are ethics for boxing, ethics for show jumping, ethics for journalism, ethics for flying aircraft and so on.

The World Boxing Commission has also taken action against Kameda for **tarnishing** the image of boxing, and has **summoned** him to a hearing in Mexico City on Monday and Tuesday. Kameda is visiting the city at the moment.

To tarnish means to spoil.

To summon someone means to order them to be somewhere at a certain time, often to sort out some or other problem.

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LIFE IN TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Gauri Deshpande, who is in Grade Seven at **St Dominic's Catholic School for Girls** in Boksburg, Gauteng, moved to South Africa from India at the beginning of last year. She shares her experience of life in the two countries.

Two years ago, when I was living in my home country, India, my dad was suddenly told he had a job in South Africa.

He moved here in the middle of the year and the rest of my family, including myself, moved here in January last year.

It was a pleasure to be going to a new country but sad to leave. I knew I would miss my grandparents, aunty and uncle. Our flight was on Ethiopian Airways. When I was in the aeroplane, looking at my country from above, I felt a little sad.

Otherwise, the plane journey was fantastic.

I saw rivers, the sea – the Indian Ocean.

The plane made a stop in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. After arriving at O R Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, we drove to our new house in nearby Benoni.

I saw neat and well-maintained roads and greenery everywhere.

The were nice houses and housing complexes. It is said that one's first impression is one's lasting impression.

My first impression of South Africa was that it was very nice and I knew I would surely fall in love with the country.

Back in India, the area in the city of Mumbai, where we lived, was very different to Benoni.

We lived in a big complex with 14-storey buildings. Our home was on the 13th floor and from my window I had a very nice view.

The complex also had a clubhouse. A big one!

The clubhouse had a very big swimming pool, a jacuzzi, a snooker room, a table tennis room and a gym. It used to be really nice playing with my friends in the clubhouse.

It was a completely different environment to South Africa. People walked in the roads, whether it was for a short or a long distance. They kept their doors open a lot and they talked to one another.

We don't experience that sort of thing here.

My school was not as big as St Dominic's but it was really nice.

The teachers were nice and my friends were kind.

We also used to work a lot.

Here, we are given printed worksheets but in India we had to make hand-written notes ourselves.

It was hard work!

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CITIZEN JOURNALISM

In South Africa, I learn Afrikaans and isiZulu. In India, we learnt languages called Hindi and Marathi. Hindi is one of the official languages of India and around 80 percent of Indians can speak it. Marathi is also spoken by lots of people. In fact, it's my mother tongue.

I still speak Marathi at home. Now, I speak Afrikaans and isiZulu quite well.

In Mumbai, it was very hot in summer, with temperatures between 35 degrees and 45 degrees Centigrade. It was also dry.

It was cold and rainy in winter.

Here in South Africa, we can experience cold and hot weather, and even rain, on the same day.

I had to get used to this kind of weather!

TODAY IN HISTORY

15 April

COPPER COMPANY STARTS IN THE CONGO (1891)

On this day one-hundred-and-nineteen years ago, in 1891, a company was formed on the instruction of King Leopold of Belgium to mine copper in the south of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. The king treated the territory as his own business empire and became very wealthy. After independence, President Mobutu Sese Seko also became very wealthy the same way. Since his rule there has been a lot of fighting in the country. Today it is ruled by President Joseph Kabila. Copper is still mined in the south of the country, especially around the city of Lubumbashi. Can you find it on a map?

TITANIC SINKS (1912)

Ninety-eight years ago, on April 15 in 1912, the luxury passenger ship, called the Titanic, sank when it hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean while sailing between Southampton in Britain, and New York. More than 1,500 people died. You may have seen the movie "Titanic" about this tragedy.



Lwazi Mngadi (Gr. 6)

INSULIN DISCOVERED (1923)

On this day eighty-seven years ago, in 1923, the substance in the human body called insulin was discovered by a Canadian scientist called Dr Frederick Banting. It was what is known as a hormone. Its job is to take blood sugar and turn it into energy that the body can use. Many people have bodies that do not produce insulin and must take insulin injections and follow special diets. This condition is known as diabetes.

BERGEN-BELSEN LIBERATED (1945)

Sixty-five years ago, on April 15 in 1945, during World War 2, British and Canadian troops set people free in the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, in Germany. The Nazi government in Germany had kept Jewish people there. During this war they rounded up Jewish people and killed around six million of them. This awful event was known as the Holocaust.

SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA (1992)

On this day eighteen years ago, in 1992, many countries all over the world refused to do business with a country in North Africa called Libya. This was because the leader of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi, refused to hand over two people who were suspected of having put a bomb in an American aircraft that blew up as it flew over a place in Scotland, called Lockerbie. They were eventually handed over and one of them was sent to jail in Scotland. He was released last year. Some 270 people died in the Lockerbie air disaster.

POL POT DIES (1998)

Twelve years ago, on April 15 in 1998, a nasty leader of a movement in a country in south-east Asia, called Cambodia, died at the age of 73, having escaped arrest for killing around two million of his people. He had forced city people to live and work on farms, which many did not want to do. The leader's name was Pol Pot.

If it's your birthday today, you share it with a Swiss mathematician called Leonhard Euler who was born in 1707 and died in 1783.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!