

POSTAL NEWS
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1. Increase in postal charges resented

Thursday, January 10, 2008
Islamabad

The social circles of the area have resented the 200 per cent increase in the tariff of postal services.

They said that the rate of three articles of UPC (Under Postal Certificate) has been increased from Rs2 to 5. Similarly, the money order charges for Rs2,000 have been increased from Rs25 to 50.

They said that the Pakistan Post is a state-run institution and should facilitate the consumers instead of looting them like other courier companies.

They were of the opinion that the rates of Pakistan Post are already high as compared to other neighbour countries and it is injustice with the people to further raise it.

They said that it is the age of computer and the well-to-do people are using computer for mail and messages free of cost. Similarly, some people are also using cell phone for the purpose but the poor people who have no facility of computer or cell phone are utilising the Pakistan Post but they are being looted there.

They demanded of the government to review the increase in the Pakistan Post tariff and give relief to the customers instead of looting them. They hoped that the government would take action and would review its decision.

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2. China Postal Savings Bank opens 20th provincial-level branch

HANGZHOU, Jan. 9 (Xinhua) -- China Postal Savings Bank (CPSB) opened a provincial-level branch in eastern Zhejiang province on Wednesday, bringing the number of provinces in which it can conduct a full range of financial services to 20.

With 1,500 post office outlets already established in Zhejiang, CPSB, now China's fifth largest commercial bank in terms of deposits following its inauguration nine months ago, will be able to provide credit card business, loans and financial management services in both urban and rural areas, according to a branch spokesman.

Post offices in China began to offer postal savings services in 1986 but until now were not authorized to provide lending or credit card services.

There are 36,000 post office outlets nationwide, almost 60 percent of them in rural areas, and 270 million account holders.

CPSB has been officially approved to establish branches at all levels around the country, including 34 provincial-level branches and over 20,000 sub-branches, the China Banking Regulatory Commission said.

The bank's governor Tao Liming previously said it aimed to open all its provincial-level branches by the end of this month.

By the end of October, CPSB had registered 1.7 trillion yuan (about 233 billion U.S. dollars) in deposits.

CPSB was inaugurated last March representing a substantial step forward in China's financial reform and is expected to improve financial services in the country's rural areas.

Editor: Wang Hongjiang

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3. Postal Service Previews 2008 Stamps By Sherry Matthews

Epoch Times Los Angeles Staff Jan 09, 2008

Rats and bats and flags and films ... All these are inspirations for stamps in the Postal Service's 2008 stamp program.

This program covers subjects as diverse as America itself: our individual states, journalist heroes, 20th century movie icons and literary figures.

"This stamp series celebrates our greatest creative minds, our groundbreaking heroes, and the places, institutions and values that have made us who we are," said Postmaster General John Potter. "We're proud to be able to highlight noteworthy parts of our shared American history on stamps that people will use every day to connect with family and friends."

Our introduction of The Flags of Our Nation series this summer makes for a perfect start into stamp collecting—and they're a great geography lesson. We encourage parents to involve their children in this fascinating inexpensive hobby they will cherish for years to come."

Flags of Our Nation

As part of a multiyear series, the first state stamps will begin to wave across the counters of the nation's 37,000 Post Offices. The series highlights the Stars and Stripes, 50 state flags, five territorial flags, and the District of Columbia flag.

The U.S. Postal Service stamp of the Florida state flag (© 2007/USPS All Rights Reserved)

Ten stamps will be issued in the spring—Stars and Stripes, plus Alabama through Delaware—followed by 10 more in the fall—District of Columbia through Kansas. The series continues in 2009 and 2010, with four of the six groups of 10 to include a Stars and Stripes stamp.

Celebrating Lunar New Year: Year of the Rat

The 2008 commemorative stamp program launches in early January by celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year with the issuance of the Year of the Rat stamp.

American Journalists

Five journalists who risked their lives reporting wars and internal turbulence in some of the most important events of the 20th century are saluted in April.

—Martha Gellhorn (1908-1998) covered the Spanish Civil War, World War II and the Vietnam War in a long career that broke new ground for women. With her constant focus on harm to civilians, her reporting was considered a morally courageous model.

—John Hersey (1914-1993) was a versatile writer whose most famous work, *Hiroshima*, describes what happened when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city that gave the work its title. It has been acclaimed as the greatest work of journalism of the 20th century.

—George Polk (1913-1948) was a talented young CBS radio correspondent who filed hard-hitting radio bulletins from Greece describing the strife that erupted there after World War II. He was working on reports of corruption involving U.S. aid when he disappeared. His body was found a week later. The exact circumstances of his death remain a mystery.

—Ruben Salazar (1928-1970) was the first Mexican-American journalist to have a major voice in mainstream news media. His writings in the *Los Angeles Times* and segments at KMEX-TV on the Chicano movement of the 1960s added richly to the historical record. While in Los Angeles covering a Vietnam War protest, Salazar was killed by a tear gas projectile.

—Eric Sevareid (1912-1992) was a writer for the New York Herald Tribune and later a broadcast journalist for CBS radio recruited by Edward R. Murrow. He covered World War II, reporting on the approach of the Germans to Paris, the exodus from the city and on life in London during wartime. His later television commentaries in the 1960s and 1970s on the CBS Evening News were widely admired.

TAKE ME OUT... Celebrating the 100th anniversary of this classic song (© 2007/USPS All Rights Reserved)

Wedding Hearts

Designed especially for mailing wedding invitations and RSVPs, the two 2007 Wedding Hearts stamps featuring vines that form the shape of a heart will be reissued in 2008, and are sure to add an elegant touch to invitations and response cards.

Minnesota Statehood

The 150th-year celebration of Minnesota statehood will be commemorated in May.

Love: All Heart

Another in the popular Love series, which started in 1973, the 2008 design, titled All Heart, features an oversized heart being transported by its owner.

LOOKS LIKE A CLASSIC Mickey Mouse as Steamboat Willie, Disney's first hit. (© 2007/USPS All Rights Reserved)

Vintage Black Cinema

Vivid reminders of a bygone era will be celebrated in June through Vintage Black Cinema stamps based on five vintage movie posters.

The Art of Disney: Imagination

With the help of some of Walt Disney's famous animated characters, these four stamps, scheduled to be the fifth and final in the Art of Disney series, illustrate the theme of imagination.

Olympic Games

The Postal Service continues its tradition of honoring the spirit of athleticism and international unity inspired by the Olympic Games.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008, one of the most popular baseball songs of all time, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game " will be featured late next summer.

Holiday Nutcrackers

Four eye-catching nutcracker designs were custom-made for the U.S. Postal Service.

2008 Christmas Stamp

The design was based on a painting by the Italian master Sandro Botticelli.

The stamps can be viewed on the US Post Service website

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4. A good year for Quality Service Fund says the Universal Postal Union

Source: Universal Postal Union

Published Wednesday, 9 January, 2008 - 18:05

In 2007, the Quality of Service Fund (QSF) financed 75 projects, totalling 15.8 million USD, in more than 50 countries. This was the first time that the Fund, created in 2001, actually spent more money than it received. At its last meeting, in October, the QSF Board of Trustees adopted projects in China (system for translating and improving the delivery of international mail), Bangladesh (installation of X-ray detectors to improve mail security), Romania (mobile offices set up in rural areas) and other countries. A total of 21 very diverse projects amounting to 8.4 million USD were approved recently, including a regional project that will enable nine Latin American countries to set up a cost accounting programme.

The Board of Trustees also awarded certificates to Belarus, El Salvador, Fiji, Jordan, Kenya, Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda for achieving their QSF project objectives and improving postal service quality in their countries.

The QSF was created by the UPU to finance projects aimed at improving postal service quality in developing countries. All member countries, except for the least developed countries, contribute to the Fund through an increase in terminal dues payments.

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5. SUU Post Office absorbing former Zions Bank space

Sean Miles

Issue date: 1/10/08 Section: News

Media Credit: Richard Payson

Dean Lefevre from the SUU repair shop tears down walls in the old Zion Bank booth in the Sharwan Smith Center Mall. SUU officials plan to extend the post office into the area to accommodate storage and increased mail. Associate Vice President for Facilities Management David Tanner said the expansion has been considered for more than a year.

The recent closing of the Zions Bank ATM in the Sharwan Smith Center has allowed for an expansion of the SUU Post Office.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Management David Tanner said Zion's Bank "found it wasn't effective for them" to have a branch on campus.

Zions Bank let their contract expire last month Tanner said.

The process of looking for space to expand the post office has been in the works for more than a year, Tanner said. SUU President Michael T. Benson has granted approval to go forward with the remodeling and expansion.

Post Office Manager Bruce Barclay said he is excited to have the additional space.

"We are one of the top producing CPO's (college post offices) in the state," Barclay said.

The expansion will cost about \$50,000, Barclay said.

The pieces of bulk mail the post office sends for SUU has increased over the past two years, coinciding with a recruitment push, Barclay said. The post office currently handles approximately 1.2 million pieces of bulk mail per year for SUU.

The growth of the students' mail has also caused a strain on the small facilities, Barclay said.

The post office has 72 sites it must deliver mail to per day. Ten students and two full-time staff members handle all post office responsibilities.

Barclay said the Post Office is going to increase its workspace in order to cope with the growing campus and larger mail volume.

Four people work in roughly a 10-square-foot area; the rest of the space is occupied by equipment and packages.

During the holidays, the post office still receives student mail and much of it is not picked up. Barclay said the additional storage would help to clear the "3-foot walkway," which is lined with packages.

Barclay said the renovation would not include hiring new employees, although it will "provide a better place for them to work."

The expansion will allow for any new mailing equipment SUU may need in the future, Barclay said.

The expansion of SUU Housing & Residence Life will also increase the volume of mail going through the post office, Barclay said. The increase in housing would increase the number of boxes that must be serviced.

The post office expansion will not increase the cost of P.O. boxes for students.

The use of in-house teams for construction will enable the office to continue with minimal interruption of services, Tanner said. Building Maintenance Manager Ben Johnson and Utility Services Manager Tiger Funk will oversee the construction.

"We will probably have to have people come to the counter to receive mail," Barclay said.

Mail will still be available for all post office customers, and at no time will mail service be stopped.

"This week they're beginning ... selective demolition," Tanner said.

The former Zions Bank ATM location will be hollowed out in order for P.O. boxes and storage to be put in, he said.

Tanner said he estimated the Zions Bank portion of the renovation to be completed in about six weeks. This will include the production of a new front counter and bay of P.O. boxes.

GIS/CAD Specialist Tyson Kyhl is in charge of the production of plans for the post office.

"We have to keep a partnership with them (SUU Post Office employees) to keep schedules going so they can deliver the mail," Kyhl said.

An additional six weeks will be needed in order to complete remodeling of the existing portion of the post office.

The post office project was originally part of a "capital improvement request," Tanner said.

The request would not have been considered until July 1 and the timing worked better now, he said.

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6. Postal industry minimum wage to cost PIN Group up to 45 mln eur in 2008

01.09.08, 6:12 AM ET

FRANKFURT (Thomson Financial) - The minimum wage to be brought into the postal industry, which was approved by Germany's upper house in December, will cost PIN Group up to 45 mln eur in 2008, chief executive Horst Piepenburg told Die Zeit.

'As a result of the minimum wage, costs of the PIN Group in 2008 will rise by 35-45 mln eur,' he said.

Most of the costs are expected to be covered by a form of state reimbursement, he said.

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