

POSTAL NEWS

No. 23/2008

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

1. **Army Postal Service celebrates 36th Corps Day. March 1, 2008.**
2. **Some postal votes may be discounted, Roma candidate says. March 3, 2008.**
3. **Postal Service Offers Military Discount. March 2, 2008.**
4. **Cost of postal services goes up by 25% in Samoa. March 2, 2008.**
5. **Malaysian oppn accuse govt of postal vote fraud. March 3, 2008.**
6. **HARRY: THE HOMECOMING. March 3, 2008.**

1. Army Postal Service celebrates 36th Corps Day

Punjab Newsline Network
Saturday, 01 March 2008

CHANDIGARH: The Army Postal Services Corps (APS) celebrated its 36th anniversary at Headquarters Western Command at Chandimandir Saturday.

The celebrations were attended by all the senior officers of the Command and personnel of the APS. This was followed by 'Barakhana' for all serving and former APS personnel stationed in Chandigarh, Chandimandir, Panchkula and Mohali.

Over the past years, APS has had made rapid strides in technological advancements thereby leading to a much more efficient system of communication. Army post offices in the Western Command have been provided with multipurpose counter machines and most of the operations and telegrams transmission have been computerized.

Further, nearly 20 post offices are in the process for activation as e-Post Centers for transmission of e-post articles in the command. Also on the anvil is the establishment of a data centre, enlarging e-Post and banking facilities to the field areas as well. Automation of Field Post Offices (FPOs) and 1 CBPO and various APS units in Western Command is also being undertaken on priority.

Although the APS came into existence as a separate Corps on 01 Mar 1972, the FPO is more than 150 years old. The first FPO was raised in 1856 initially as a war time organization accompanying the Indian Expeditionary Force abroad.

Thereafter in J& K operation of 1947-48, the organization of FPOs was initially affiliated to Army Service Corps and APS personnel were finally declared combatants in 1950. Further, on 1st Jul 1969 the collection, transport and delivery of official mail (SDS) was taken away from Signals and entrusted to APS.

APS is an integral part of the Indian Army and functions as an extension of Department of Posts (Ministry of Communication & IT) to meet specific needs of the Armed Forces (Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy), Border Road Organization and para military forces.

Functionally APS does all the work of civil post offices barring a few activities. FPOs also implement censorship, maintain security form of location and dole out postal concessions.

000

2. Some postal votes may be discounted, Roma candidate says

Posted March 3, 2008 12:01:00

Updated March 3, 2008 12:00:00

Map: Roma 4455

A mayoral candidate for Roma's council elections next month fears there will be an increase in the number of invalid votes because there has not been enough education about the postal voting system.

David Bowden has been door-knocking in the Roma region and says he has already been made aware of some instances where votes have been cast that could be discounted.

"Some elderly people or near-sighted had already voted. However, they were unaware they had to have another person - a relative or friend - counter-sign their signature before they put it into the envelope to send it away," he said.

000

3. Postal Service Offers Military Discount

Posted: 3:45 PM Mar 2, 2008

Last Updated: 4:15 PM Mar 2, 2008

The United State Postal Service is offering a cheaper way for you to send care packages to our troops, starting Monday, March 3rd.

The new flat-rate box is 50% larger and \$2 cheaper than those sent to domestic destinations. That \$2 discount is applied when a large flat-rate box is sent to an APO/FPO destination.

Some of the new boxes will even feature the America Supports You logo.

Postmaster General John Potter says, "This is the first time the Postal Service has offered a special price for our armed forces serving overseas. We're proud that family and friends will be able to use this new larger-sized box to send much appreciated packages from home to our dedicated troops overseas."

The two existing flat-rate boxes (11 7/8" x 3 3/8" x 13 5/8" and 11" x 8 1/2" x 5 1/2"), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount.

The America Supports You branded box will be available online, at select Post Offices near military bases, or by calling 800-610-8734.

000

4. Cost of postal services goes up by 25% in Samoa

Posted at 22:41 on 02 March, 2008 UTC

The prices of domestic and international postal services in Samoa have gone up by 25%

Samoa Post's acting general manager, Tupe Ualolo Nun Yan, says the tariff increase is inevitable and long overdue.

He explains that postal costs have gone up considerably since the postal tariff review for international mail in 2006, and the domestic mail review in 1994.

The increase is to offset the higher postal costs which have been caused by rising overseas and domestic delivery charges, freight, VAGST and inflation.

000

5. Malaysian oppn accuse govt of postal vote fraud

Posted Mon Mar 3, 2008 1:07am AEDT

Malaysia's former deputy prime minister and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim accused the government of perpetuating postal vote fraud as citizens prepare to cast their ballots on March 8.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition government, which has led the country since independence, is expected to win the poll but lose more seats amid protests and rising prices.

However, reports of voting irregularities have cast doubt on whether the upcoming polls will be fair.

"(We) are profoundly disappointed, though not surprised, by the latest evidence of postal voting fraud likely to be perpetuated during the upcoming elections," Mr Anwar told AFP.

"The untransparent process of postal votes will result in seats won by opposition candidates being stolen by the ruling coalition in a blatantly fraudulent manner," he added.

Postal voting is presently restricted to military troops, policemen and teachers who are based far away from their constituencies.

Mr Anwar's comments come as his party colleague Ibrahim Yaacob, who is a candidate for a parliamentary seat in the capital, gave reporters the names of postal voters they say were issued with two ballot sheets.

"I was there when the Election Commission was packing voter kits for postal votes on Saturday and we spotted at least six people with the same identification card number having two ballots each," Mr Yaacob said.

"This is voting fraud as each postal voter should have only one vote," he added.

-AFP

000

6. HARRY: THE HOMECOMING

By Rupert Hamer 2/03/2008

Prince Harry blasted the Army postal service - after a Christmas card from dad Charles turned up in Afghanistan over a month late.

He described the system as "pants" - and called for bosses to get mail to the frontline faster.

The 23-year-old said a common complaint he heard from soldiers was: "We know we've got post back there, why can't they get it out here?"

He explained: "I'm sure there are reasons behind it but it's something that needs to be worked on.

"No doubt I'll be asked numerous times and it's the one thing I'll bring up, the change in the guys' attitudes, their facial expressions and just their general morale when post rocks up."

He went on: "I've been getting post - even though it's addressed to my Colonel - it eventually makes it way to me. I got a Christmas card from my dad two weeks ago and that was pretty hard to take. I was a bit miffed about the whole thing."

Among letters he did receive was one from his brother William telling him their mother Diana would be proud of him serving his country.

000

Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.