

2 Feb. – Freight train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed and caught fire at Cajon Summit, California, killing one crew member, injuring 20 other people and closing major highway

4 Feb. – Columbian DC-8 cargo plane caught fire and crashed into houses in Asuncion, Paraguay, killing at least 23 crew and residents

6 Feb. – Charter Boeing 757 carrying German tourists home from Caribbean to Berlin and Frankfurt, crashed into sea off Dominican Republic, killing all 189 on board

9 Feb. – Two commuter trains collided during morning rush hour at Secaucus, New Jersey, killing at least three people and injuring more than 235 others

10 Feb. – Road tunnel collapsed in Hokkaido, Japan, killing 20

12 Feb. – 300 cars involved in multiple pileup on a fog-bound motorway between Vicenza and Verona, in northern Italy

14 Feb. – China-Vietnam Transnational Railway re-opened after lapse of 17 years when services stopped in 1979 during Sino-Vietnamese War

15 Feb. – Liberian-registered supertanker, Sea Empress, ran aground near Milford Haven in west Wales spilling 1,000 tons of crude oil, polluting Britain's prized Pembrokehire coastline and endangering wildlife

16 Feb. – Amtrak passenger train bound for Chicago and local commuter train crashed head-on in snowstorm at Silver Spring, Maryland, killing at least 12 people and injuring 21

17 Feb. – Over 100 dead in Indonesian earthquake off coast of Irian Jaya

18 Feb. – 52 confirmed dead when ferry sank in Philippines bound for Cadiz, Negros Island when hit by high seas

24 Feb. – Two small aircraft with 4 on board belonging to "Brothers for Relief," a Miami-based group of Cuban exiles, shot down

by Cuban military aircraft

26 Feb. – USA-made C130 Sudanese military transport aircraft crashed approx. 4 km south of Khartoum killing all 70 on board

27 Feb. – Over 200 vehicles involved in nose-to-tail collision killing 15 people in thick fog on expressway in north-west Belgium

29 Feb. – B737 owned by Fawcett Airlines, Peru, crashed in mountains near Lima killing 117 passengers and 6 crew

4 Mar. – Thirty-five cars of freight train derailed at Weyauwega, Wisconsin forcing evacuation of entire town

8 Mar. – Royal Mail train collided with derailed freight train carrying chemicals in heavily populated area of Stafford, central England, killing one person and injuring 20

8 Mar. – Turkish Cypriot Airlines B727 carrying 109 passengers and crew bound for Istanbul from northern Cyprus hijacked by group of four in military-style dress, claiming to be Chechens. Incident resolved when hijackers surrendered in Munich releasing all passengers unharmed

9 Mar. – With services due to begin at end of month, Teito Rapid Transit Authority invited 200 guests to view a movie in makeshift cinema at Namboku Line Ichigaya Station, which was converted temporarily for the event

13 Mar. – JR East opened WWW home page on Internet at <http://www.jreast.co.jp>

16 Mar. – JR Group revised schedules in most extensive changes since December 1994. Tokyo projects included extension of Saikyo Line (see page 51), and completion of electrification of 3.1 km between Hachioji and Koraigawa on Hakko-minami Line

18 Mar. – JR West and JR Central held ground-breaking ceremony at Yodogawaku, Osaka, site of second control center for Tokaido-San'yo Shinkansen

25 Mar. – Transport Ministry approved plan

by JR Central to build new shinkansen station next to current station in Tokyo. Construction to start in fiscal 1996 with completion expected by fiscal 2003

25 Mar. – IATA announced ratings for world airports, classing Narita 'BB'. IATA announced user-satisfaction ratings for 43 major world airports. Top three were: Manchester Airport (UK), for helpful staff, Changi Airport (Singapore), popular with businessmen, and Schipol Airport (Netherlands) for shopping facilities. Narita, main gateway to Japan, at 42nd place disliked for distance from city

26 Mar. – Teito Rapid Transit Authority's Namboku line expanded (see page 51).

27 Mar. – Egyptian Airlines Airbus A320 hijacked by 3 in military-style dress en route from Luxor in southern Egypt to Cairo. Hijackers forced aircraft to land near Tobruk and surrendered to Libyan authorities approximately 5 hours after hijacking

30 Mar. – JR Tazawako Line closed for 1 year due to shinkansen line construction between Morioka and Omagari (75.6 km). Bus service replaces rail service while wide-gauge tracks laid to replace narrow-gauge tracks

30 Mar. – Rinkai-Fukutoshin Line running through Tokyo Waterfront Project began operations (see page 51); second stage planned to Osaka will begin operating in 2000 with services running directly into JR Saikyo Line

1 Apr. – Outstanding debts of defunct Japanese National Railways reached record ¥27.6 trillion. JNR Settlement Corp., estimates that only about ¥7.6 trillion likely to be repaid, with taxpayers likely to shoulder remaining ¥20 trillion. Government hopes to find ways to dispose of long-term debts in 1997 budget later this year. New tax on fares of JRs to create repayment funds seems most plausible, but most unpopular

5 Apr. – Collision involving 300 cars hospitalized 6 people in southwestern Poland. Police blamed pile-up, believed to be Poland's worst, on drivers going too fast in poor weather

9 Apr. – Death toll in train derailment in Kiazi, southern Zaire, reached 100. Accident happened after one half of divided train at station rolled back downhill

11 Apr. – Fire killed at least 16 people and injured up to 150 at Dusseldorf International Airport. Prosecutors opened negligent homicide probe against construction company whose welding believed to have caused fire

18 Apr. – Overcrowded passenger train collided head-on with freight train in northern India, killing at least 54, injuring 74, and sparking riot by angry passengers. Accident appears due to failure of railway worker to change points manually

27 Apr. – Toyo Rapid Railway line reopened after twenty-five years of ceasing operations (see page 51)

29 Apr. – JR West announces plans to list stocks on Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges

30 Apr. – Nearly 60 incidents of sabotage targeted at JR East reported since early April ranging from obstacles on tracks, spraying of hazardous chemical liquids on train seats and floors, to bogus radio signals transmitted from radio communication devices stolen from JR trains. JR East set up special task force to work with police to investigate possible links to organized sabotage

Milestones

Yoshiyuki Kamei (Liberal Democratic Party member of House of Representatives) appointed Minister of Transport on 11 January. Kamei graduated in Economics from Keio University in 1962. After working for Dai-Nippon Sugar Manufacturing Co. Ltd., elected to House of Representatives at first attempt. Kamei served as Parliamentary Vice-minister of Transport and Chairman of House of Representatives Transport Committee, etc. Currently serving fifth elected term

Teruo Shoji appointed president of Nippon Ryokou Kaihatsu Collected on 29 March. After graduating in law from Tokyo University in 1959, entered Ministry of Transport retiring in July 1988 after serving as Director of Sendai Land Transport Bureau. Director of Airport Division, Director of Japanese National Railways Settlement Corporation, and Vice-president of JR West

Financial Results of JR Companies

(Billion Yen)

Company Name	Fiscal Year	Operating Surplus or Loss			Non-operating Profit or Loss	Ordinary Profit or Loss	Extraordinary Profit or Loss	Pre-tax Profit	Net Income after Tax
		Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Operating Profit or Loss					
JR East	1994-95	1954	1566	388	-289	99	3	102	57
	1995-96	1957	1573	384	-282	102	3	105	57
JR Central	1994-95	1083	741	343	-304	39	0.1	39	17
	1995-96	1113	734	379	-316	63	-5	58	25
JR West	1994-95	874	773	101	-81	20	-11	9	8
	1995-96	936	796	140	-84	56	0.4	56	26
JR Hokkaido	1994-95	102	144	-42	42	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
	1995-96	102	143	-41	39	-1	-1	-2	-2
JR Shikoku	1994-95	47	60	-13	13	-0.5	0.2	-0.3	-0.4
	1995-96	48	60	-12	11	-0.8	0.4	-0.4	-0.5
JR Kyushu	1994-95	170	196	-26	26	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.5
	1995-96	177	200	-23	24	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.4
JR Freight	1994-95	197	201	-4	-5	-8	1	-7	-8
	1995-96	196	199	-3	-6	-9	11	2	0.7