

September–December 2007

September

- 2—Rockfall in tunnel under construction in Nanjing City trapped 5 of 23 miners
- 2—Collision between Chinese fishing vessel and Korean freighter off coast of Wenzhou, China, sank fishing vessel, leaving 6 of 7 crew missing
- 3—Widening of Panama Canal started to enable passage of larger vessels with completion in 2014 on 100th anniversary of canal opening
- 4—UK Eurostar speed increased to 300 km/h on new UK high speed-line between London and Channel Tunnel, supporting record non-stop test run between Paris and London of 2 hours 3 minutes; revenue service at 300 km/h to start in November 2007 with opening of new Eurostar terminal at St Pancras Station, linking London and Paris in 2 hours 15 minutes
- 4—Tram fire in Xian, China, caused by water dripping from passenger's umbrella injured 45 onboard
- 5—Canadian Pacific Railway purchased US Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad for \$1.5 billion
- 7—Truck carrying about 200 people ran off cliff on mountain road in Rajasthan, India, killing 85 people
- 8—JR East Takayama Line cut in four places by typhoon in October 2004 returned to full service with opening of 27.5-km section between Tsunogawa and Inotani
- 9—China Railway announced plans to upgrade operation speeds of shinkansen services between Beijing and Tianjin to 300 km/h before 2008 Beijing Olympics with future upgrades of rolling stock on regional shinkansen to support speeds of 350 km/h by 2010
- 11—Truck collided with hearse in Romania, killing 5 people and injuring 3 others
- 13—JR East Shinetsu Line cut by Niigata Chūetsu Offshore Earthquake Earthquake returned to full service
- 16—MD82 crashed on landing at Phuket Airport, killing 89 of 130 onboard
- 21—Undercarriage of Bombardier DHC8-Q400 collapsed on landing at Munich Airport, Germany, leaving 68 people onboard unharmed following similar failures at Kochi Airport in Japan in March and SAS flights in Europe
- 21—Light plane crash-landed after engine failure on freeway in Ft. Lauderdale Florida, USA, severely injuring pilot
- 26—JR Central and JR West brought forward plans to increase speed of Series N700 Tokaido and San'yō shinkansen with switchover to all Nozomi 96 formation by

end of FY2011; Series N700 introduced in July planned to operate as 54 formation (42 JR Central + 12 JR West) until FY2009 but then decided to add 42 formation (38 + 4) until end of FY2011

- 26—Following resignation of Abe Cabinet, Komeito Party former secretary-general Tetsuzo Fuyushiba reappointed to post of Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in new Fukuda Cabinet
- 26—2.7-km bridge under construction with Japanese development aid in southern Viet Nam collapsed, killing 60 workers and injuring 150
- 29—Charter flights started between Tokyo's Haneda Airport and Shanghai Hongqiao Airport with plan to link centres of both cities in shortest possible time, permitting 1-day round trip

October

- 1—Loss-making Yoro and Iga lines of Kintetsu Railway spun-off as Yoro Railway (57.5 km, Kuwana to Ibi) and Iga Railway (16.6 km, Iga-Ueno to Igakanbe) started operations with Kintetsu retaining ownership of infrastructure as Category-3 operator and two new companies functioning as Category-2 rail operators
- 2—Large bus caught fire on expressway in Chongqing City, China, killing 27 passengers and injuring 11 others including driver after 2 passengers set fire to luggage in suicide pact
- 4—Africa One Antonov 36 cargo plane crashed into houses immediately after takeoff in Congo, Africa, killing 25 of 27 people on board and burning down at least 10 houses
- 6—Train hit bus on level crossing in southern Cuba, killing at least 28 people and injuring 73
- 7—No. 5 Line (27.6 km) of Beijing Metro linking north and south parts of city opened to link with east–west No. 1 Line and circular No. 2 Line for total current length of 141.3 km
- 9—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries officially announced plans to commercialize and accept orders for Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) with 70 to 90 seats powered by Pratt and Whitney jet engines for delivery in 2012
- 9—French SNCF debuted environment-friendly diesel-electric hybrid train built by Bombardier of Canada with services between Paris and Troyes
- 11—Bus drove over edge of mountain road in India and fell

into river, killing at least 40 people on board

- 14**—JR East opened The Railway Museum in Saitama City with displays of 35 pieces of historic rolling stock, SL driving simulator, 1400 m of HO gauge model railway diorama, etc., to replace closed Transportation Museum and commemorate 20th anniversary of company foundation
- 14**—Start of work on Beijing's No. 6 Metro Line (152 km) approved with full opening scheduled for 2012
- 17**—JR West and JR Kyushu announced plans for direct through operations between San'yo Shinkansen (about 644 km, Shin-Osaka to Hakata) and Kyushu Shinkansen (about 257 km, Hakata to Kagoshima-Chuo) after full opening in Spring 2011, shortening 4-hour journey between Shin-Osaka and Kagoshima-Chuo by about 1 hour
- 18**—Passenger vessel sank southeast of Sulawesi, Indonesia, drowning at least 30 people and leaving more than 70 missing
- 23**—JR Hokkaido announced development of motor-assist (MA) hybrid railcar adding auxiliary electric motor to assist diesel engine and cut fuel consumption—expected to enter service after completing running tests
- 25**—Singapore Airlines started commercial flights of Airbus A380 super-jumbo with maiden return flight to Singapore after raising some S\$190,000 (about ¥150 million) for charity by auctioning tickets for flight on Internet
- 27**—Helicopter crashed onto tracks of Nankai Railway's Takano Line near Osaka, killing both people onboard and stopping services on line after damaging catenary and signalling systems
- 28**—Scandinavia Airline Systems (SAS) announced suspension of services using Bombardier DHC8-400, following several incidents with landing gear problems worldwide
- 31**—Third-sector Miki Railway announced application to Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to bring forward planned closure of 6.6-km section of tracks between Miki and Yakujiin to 1 April 2008

November

- 4**—Learjet 35 crashed into houses near Sao Paulo, Brazil, killing 2 pilots and 6 people on ground and leaving 2 others injured

5—Construction started on world's largest Ferris wheel (193-m dia) in Beijing, China

- 12**—Airbus announced order for Airbus 380 to VIP "Flying Palace" specifications from Prince Al-Walid of Saudi Arabia as first sale to private individual
- 14**—St Pancras International Station, London, opened to start serving 109-km long, high-speed, Channel Tunnel Rail Link operating at 300 km/h and cutting time between Paris and London to 2 h 15 minutes
- 15**—Airbus A340-600 under ground test at Airbus Technical Centre in Toulouse, France, broke free during engine test run-up and collided with sound barriers, injuring 9 people onboard and one ground crew seriously
- 15**—Cessna 404 crashed in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, killing all 3 people on board
- 16**—JR East announced plans to extend Tohoku Shinkansen between Hachinohe and Shin Aomori by late 2010 with operations at 300 km/h (now 275 km/h) between Utsunomiya and Morioka, linking Tokyo with Shin Aomori in 3 h 10 minutes
- 19**—Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced next-generation, low-floor tram (SWIMO) using nickel hydride (NiMH) rechargeable batteries as well as trolley lines for running
- 20**—As part of new anti-terrorist measures, Japan started fingerprinting (both index fingers) and photographing all foreigners aged 16 and over entering Japan
- 20**—US Department of Homeland Security announced plans to strengthen anti-terrorist measures by fingerprinting all ten fingers of both hands of all foreign visitors, starting at Washington Dallas Airport from 29 November and extending in stages nationwide
- 20**—Rock fall at portal to railway tunnel in Hubei Province, China, crushed long distance bus on road below line, killing 24 of 30 onboard
- 22**—British government announced plans to upgrade London Heathrow Airport with addition of third runway and sixth terminal building
- 23**—Cruise liner MV Explorer sank after hitting iceberg near South Shetland Island in Antarctic with all 154 passengers and crew escaping to lifeboats
- 27**—Omron, Kintetsu Corporation, Hankyu Corporation, and Osaka University awarded Milestone Prize by IEEE for pioneering work in Railroad Ticketing Examining System from 1965 to 1971
- 30**—MD83 of Turkey's Atlas Jet crashed in central Turkey, killing all 57 people onboard

September–December 2007

30—Amtrak passenger train collided with freight train near Chicago, USA, injuring about 70 people

December

6—JR East and ANA announced comprehensive tie-up, starting 2008 February. This tie-up includes credit card business, etc., starting from autumn 2008

9—DB AG revised train timetables with start of high-speed ICE operations to Copenhagen, Denmark, using Vogelfluglinie rail ferries and ICE-TD diesel units

9—Eurocopter EC135T2 crashed in Shizuoka Prefecture, killing pilot and severely injuring flight engineer

10—Mitsubishi Corporation announced order for 48 carriages for 30-km No. 3 line of Cairo Metro, linking city with airport and scheduled to open in October 2011

12—Freight operations resumed on Gyeongui Line between North and South Korea 56 years after cut by Korean War

12—JR East and JR Hokkaido announced interoperability plans for Suica IC card and Kitaca IC card to be introduced in autumn 2008 by JR Hokkaido from spring 2009

14—Government and ruling party agreed to establish working group to examine funding for construction of three new shinkansen sections (Hokkaido Shinkansen, Hakodate to Sapporo; Hokuriku Shinkansen, Kanazawa to Tsuruga; Kyushu Shinkansen Nagasaki route, Isahayashi to Nagasaki)

14—Delayed train collided with bus on level crossing in north India, killing 18 bus passengers and injuring 14 others

17—JR Kyushu and Saga and Nagasaki municipal governments agree to continue operations on Nagasaki Line (Hizen Yamaguchi to Isahayashi) running parallel to Nagasaki route of Kyushu Shinkansen for 20 years after new shinkansen opened

17—Nagoya Railroad announced closure of 1.2-km monorail in Inuyamashi City Monkey Park, Aichi Prefecture, due to falling passenger numbers and aging facilities, 21 years after line opened as Japan's first straddle beam monorail

18—ANA, Nittsu, and Kintetsu Express announced plans for joint domestic airfreight services from April 2008 with establishment of integrated airfreight and general freight system

19—Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport announced establishment of Tourism Agency from October 2008 to promote inbound tourism

19—14 cars of 18-car night express train derailed in Pakistan, killing at least 58 people and injuring 122 others

19—TGV hit large truck on level crossing in southern France near Swiss border, killing truck driver and injuring 35 TGV passengers

21—JR East, Central and Hokkaido announced start of joint IC card services from 29 March 2008, supporting transfers between three operators' regions and check-free travel between Tokyo and Shin Osaka on Tokaido Shinkansen

22—China announced completion of first domestically manufactured high-speed CRH2-300 rolling stock by Nanche Sifang Locomotive for 300 km/h operations on 120-km long high-speed line between Beijing and Tianjin City expected to open on 1 August 2008

25—JR Central announced plans to self-finance planned 290-km Maglev shinkansen over central route between Tokyo and Nagoya with expected costs including rolling stock of ¥5.1 trillion and completion by 2025

25—River bridge collapsed in western Nepal leaving at least 15 dead and more than 70 missing