



Running late, Japanese rail worker delays train 遲到啦！日本鐵路員工延誤列車當作藉口

A Japanese railway worker **halted** a **commuter** train by pressing an emergency stop button because he needed an excuse for running late for work, police said after arresting the man.

Masahiro Matsumoto, 23, employed at the Nishioji station in Kyoto prefecture, pressed a roadside emergency stop button at a train **crossing**, causing a Nara line train to stop for about four minutes.

A police spokesman quoted Matsumoto as saying after his arrest: "I was running late for work and I thought it could be an excuse if a train stopped because of the emergency stop."

The police officer told AFP that Matsumoto, himself a rail commuter, was trying to cause follow-up **delays** on the train line so that he could "tell his boss that his late arrival could not be helped."

Police were **staking out** the crossing following six similar cases and were investigating whether the railway employee was responsible for any of them.

His employer, West Japan Railway Co., said in a statement: "We sincerely regret the arrest of our employee, which caused our customers and others concerned to lose trust in us." (AFP)

本警方表示，他們逮捕了一名鐵路員工，他因上班遲到要找藉口，竟按下緊急停止按鈕讓一列通勤火車停下。

二十三歲的松本雅宏任職於京都府西大路車站，他按下一處鐵路平交道路旁的緊急停止按鈕，導致一列奈良線列車停駛約四分鐘。

警方發言人引述松本被捕後的話說：「我上班要遲到了，心想如果火車因為緊急事故停駛，就可以作為我的藉口了。」

這位警官對法新社表示，松本是一位火車通勤族，他企圖引發該線列車延誤，這樣他就可以「跟老闆解釋他遲到是因為不可抗拒的原因」。

發生過六起類似事件後，警方就開始監視這個平交道，他們正在調查這些事件是否和這名鐵路員工有關。

他所屬的西日本旅客鐵道株式會社在一份聲明中表示：「我們對社內同仁被捕深感遺憾，此舉已使顧客和其他相關人士失去對我們的信任。」 (法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

Top: The new E5-type bullet train, sporting an extended nose, is unveiled to media on June 17, 2009, in Rifu in Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan. PHOTO: AP

上圖：六月十七日，有著長鼻車頭的新型E5子彈列車在日本北部宮城縣利府町亮相。 照片：美聯社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **halt** /hɔlt/ v.

暫停 (zhan4 ting2) , 停止 (ting2 zhi3)

例: The police officer instructed the driver to halt the car.
(警方指示駕駛停下車輛。)

2. **commuter** /kə'mju:tə/ n.

通勤者 (tong1 qin2 zhe3)

例: Dozens of commuters were caught up in a train derailment.
(衆多通勤者因火車出軌而受困其中。)

3. **crossing** /'krɒsɪŋ/ n.

十字路口 (shi2 zi4 lu4 kou3) , 平交道 (ping2 jiao1 dao4)

例: The crossing will be closed until investigators are able to determine the cause of the accident.
(在調查人員查明這起意外的起因前，這個十字路口將先封閉。)

4. **delay** /di'le/ n.

誤點 (wu4 dian3)

例: There are expected to be heavy delays until weather conditions improve.
(預計在天氣狀況轉好前都會嚴重誤點。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

stake out (v. phr.) / stakeout (n.) 嚴密監視

When investigators (usually the police) conduct a **stakeout**, they carry out close surveillance on a person or property.

Examples: "The police **staked out** the alley, in the hope of catching a drug dealer," or "The judge decided that evidence gathered during the **stakeout** was inadmissible in court."

當調查人員（通常是警方）進行「stake out」時，就表示他們嚴密監視某人或某處。

例如：「警方嚴密監視這條巷子，希望能逮到藥頭」，或是「法官裁定，法庭將不予採納監視期間取得的證據」。