

Launch of Sri Lanka - India ferry postponed

Posted by Sri Lanka Guide - 2011/03/03 14:32

Launch of Sri Lanka - India passenger ferry postponed

The ferry service between Colombo in Sri Lanka and Tuticorin in India that was to be started on Wednesday has been postponed indefinitely.

The reason for the suspension is due to non-availability of the ship assigned for the ferry service, Indian sources say.

The ship that was to be used in the passenger ferry has been reportedly sent to Libya by the Indian government to evacuate the Indian expatriate workers stranded there due to political turmoil.

A privately-run ferry with a capacity of 500 passengers was scheduled to sail from the Tuticorin port on Monday, February 28.

The ferry service will run three trips a week between the two countries and expect to transport around 100,000 passengers per week.

The 152- nautical mile journey between Colombo and Tuticorin is expected to take 10-12 hours.

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Sri Lanka is to deploy a passenger ship for the ferry service between Colombo and Tuticorin port of India from next month as the service is presently suspended due to some business issues and for repairs.

Sri Lankan Ports and Highway Ministry sources say that the new ship will be put into service in line with the agreement between India and Sri Lanka.

Scotia Prince ship that was in service reportedly has some issues at the Colombo port and has some repair work to be done too, shipping sources say. Hence the bi-weekly service is currently suspended until further notice.

Indian media reported that the vessel, which left for Colombo on November 18 have not returned to Tuticorin. However, an operator of the luxury liner has said that the services have been stopped only for the last week due to technical reasons and the service should resume this week.

Flamingo liners of India operated the ship while Sri Lanka Shipping Corporation was the local agent.

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