



EMAMI EAST BENGAL UNVEILS POWERFUL, REVITALIZED TEAM FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

**Presents the top scorers of 2023 Durand Cup, Super Cup & ISL
Top Assist Provider of ISL 2023-24
&
8 National Level Players**

Kolkata, 22 July 2024:

After reaching the 2023 Durand Cup final, winning the 2024 Kalinga Super Cup and thus returning to the Asian stage after 9 years, Emami East Bengal FC has made some crucial reinforcements to the squad in a bid to win more titles in the upcoming season.

A week before kickstarting the new season with their Durand Cup opener against Indian Air Force, the **full Emami East Bengal FC first team squad**, led by **Head Coach Carles Cuadrat** and accompanied by **Emami Group Directors Mr Aditya Vardhan Agarwal and Mr Manish Goenka**, was presented in front of the media for a Meet & Greet event at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity on Monday, 22nd July.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Aditya Vardhan Agarwal and Mr Manish Goenka highlighted their vision for Emami East Bengal and how it aligns with their dream of taking Emami Group to greater heights. They said, "When we came aboard as East Bengal's investor in 2022, we promised to the club and the fans that we would leave no stone unturned to bring back the days of glory. While the Super Cup victory was a testament to our hard work and dedication to the club, the upcoming season will be even more important for us with Emami East Bengal qualifying for the AFC stage. Keeping the long season in mind, we have tried to forge a squad that can challenge for multiple titles. At the same time, we are working steadfastly and wholeheartedly to develop young talents so that we can contribute more players to the Indian football in the coming days."

Emami East Bengal showed their intent of building a strong squad from the start of this summer transfer window, signing **last ISL's Golden Boot winner Dimitrios Diamanatakos, last ISL's top assist-provider Madih Talal, last Durand Cup's Golden Boot Winner David Lalhlansanga, India U-23 full-back Mark Zothanpuia, seasoned goalkeeper Debjit Majumder, talented full-back Provat Lakra** and most recently **Indian national team midfielder Jeakson Singh**.

Along with these new additions, Emami East Bengal also handed **contract extensions to the top performers from the previous season** in a bid to strengthen their core. The likes of **captain Cleiton Silva, Saul Crespo, Hijazi Maher, Nishu Kumar and Mohamad Rakip** contributed heavily to the Red & Gold Brigade's Kalinga Super Cup triumph earlier this year and have adapted well to the honor and pressure of representing a historic club like East Bengal.



After introducing the first team squad, **Emami East Bengal Head Coach Carles Cuadrat** named **Cleiton Silva, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Saul Crespo and Souvik Chakrabarti** as the captains for the new season.

Speaking about the new-look Emami East Bengal team and Emami Group's contribution to the team-building process, Cuadrat said, "Emami Group and everyone involved in the project understand that a great opportunity to win more titles and compete strongly in Asia awaits us in the upcoming season. The previous season was a very important one for us. The winning spirit was back and everybody could witness the positive development around the club. Now players from other clubs want to play in front of our loud and passionate fans. It's a great sign to see so many top performers in the ISL joining us. "

By virtue of winning the Kalinga Super Cup, Emami East Bengal has made it to the preliminary stage of the AFC Champions League 2 where they will host Turkmenistan's FC Altyn Asyr at Kolkata's VYBK on 14th August. A victory in that game would see the Red & Golds qualify for the main Group Stage of the continental competition.

Commenting on Emami East Bengal's AFC ambitions, Cuadrat said, "Playing in Asia after so many years will allow us to represent the club and the country at the continent level. This is motivating everyone to bring more quality to the squad. Emami Group is extremely receptive to all our demands and have responded in the best way possible. I can assure the fans that we are in the right process. Besides, we have also got some talented youngsters in the B team who are excelling in tournaments like the Calcutta Football League and the Reliance Foundation Development League. They will soon travel to the United Kingdom to take part in the Next Gen Cup and play against teams like Aston Villa, Tottenham, Crystal Palace and Everton. Youth development is a major aspect of our project and our youngsters are justifying our faith in them by earning promotions to the first team, getting playing time, scoring goals and providing assists."

PLAYERS PRESENTED AT THE EVENT

Goalkeepers: Prabhsukhan Singh Gill and Debjit Majumder

Defenders: Hijazi Maher, Lalchungnunga, Gursimrat Singh Gill, Nishu Kumar, Mark Zothanpuia, Mohamad Rakip, Provat Lakra

Midfielders: Souvik Chakrabarti, Saul Crespo, Jeakson Singh, Madih Talal, Vishnu PV, Sayan Banerjee, Aman CK, Tanmay Das, Shyamal Besra

Forwards: Cleiton Silva, Dimitrios Diamantakos, David Lalhlansanga, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Nandhakumar Sekar

