



## Bangladesh to Play Two Friendlies Against Nepal in September; Hamza Available, Samit Misses Out



Collected picture

Bangladesh will face Nepal in two friendly matches during the September international window as preparation for the Asian Cup qualifiers in October. The matches, scheduled to be held in Kathmandu, had raised doubts over the availability of two key players: Hamza Chowdhury and Canada-based Samit Som. While Samit will miss the matches, there is good news regarding Hamza's participation.

Samit Som will not represent Bangladesh in the friendlies as he will be playing in Canada's league for his club, Cavalry FC. Consequently, he has been left out of the preliminary squad. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) confirmed that efforts are underway to include Hamza Chowdhury in the squad. His name has already been listed in the 24-man preliminary squad for the Nepal matches, and the federation is coordinating with his club, Leicester City, to secure his release.

National team manager Amer Khan told the media on Wednesday (August 13), "Samit has club commitments during the September window, so he has not been included in the preliminary squad. Hamza Chowdhury, however, is on the list, and the federation is negotiating with Leicester City to have him join the national team."

Bangladesh will play Nepal on September 6 and 9. Hamza is available as Leicester City has no matches between August 30 and September 13, while Samit's club has a fixture on September 6, preventing his participation.

Looking ahead to the Asian Cup qualifiers in October, Bangladesh will face Hong Kong in two matches—on October 9 at home and October 14 away. Both Hamza and Samit are expected to be available for the national team during these crucial qualifiers.