

English colts' day out at city school

Sayan Chakraborty

Ajanta.Chakraborty@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: When Jadon Sancho, Danny Loader, Angel Gomes and the rest of the England team covered thousands of miles to take part in the U-17 World Cup, they never imagined they would feel at home in a faraway land. But on Thursday, the team got a sweet taste of Indian hospitality as the players and support staff visited Newtown School.

From signing jerseys and sneakers to clicking selfies and displaying some deft football skills, the young turks had their hands full on the campus, which has won this year's British Council International School Award.

The players were escorted by Fifa officials amid tight security but the schoolstudents took over as the team walked into the campus. Armed with markers and cellphones, the students were on the prowl for their "wow" moment. "Signed shoes is such a fantastic football ritual," gushed Palak Majit-



Jadon Sancho shows off his footwork to the students on Thursday

hia, a Class VIIA student, showing off her own autographed pair.

Also present at the school were budding footballers, who are part of the UK-supported Kolkata Goalz program-

me for the underprivileged. The skills project run by the British Council and Kolkata Police, supported by the UK's Premier League, has been grooming local Kolkata teenagers.

CM to host Fifa boss

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee will host a dinner in honour of Fifa president Gianni Infantino who will be in the city for the U-17 World Cup final on October 28.

A source said that Banerjee plans to host the dinner on October 26. PTI