

# Sports School, Vidyanagar rule the roost

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** After the Fed Cup preliminaries, it was the turn of youngsters to showcase their skills at the Football Stadium as 36 city teams battled for top honours in the Bangalore-leg of the national inter-school

football tournament, organised jointly by Tata Tea and Arsenal Football Club. After a series of gruelling league-cum-knockout encounters over the last two days, Government Sports School, Vidyanagar emerged champions defeating St Meera's High School, Ulsoor 3-0 in an action-packed title clash on Monday.

Manivannan and Raja Bakshi scored for the winners on either side of the break in the 15-minute game. Vidyanagar side thus booked their ticket to the national finals to be held in Kolkata next year.

"We have been training for the last two weeks. We deserved to win the title. Our next aim is clinch the national



S Pratap Kumar (left), Diwkar Tapa (second from left) and Kyrpang Swell of ASC (second from right), who have been selected for the all-India camp in Kolkata, listen to veteran footballer Jamshid Nassiri's gyan on Monday

finals," said GSS coach Krishna.

"It was nice to see youngsters turning out in good numbers to compete in the tournament. Bangalore has got plenty of talent and they have to be unearthed at the right time," said Iranian Jamshid Nassiri, who is the

technical director of the event.

"I have lost faith in Indian club football. But I have hope in the budding talents. These children promise a lot and they will make India proud soon," said Nassiri, who served all the three Kolkata giants — East Ben-

gal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting during the 80s and 90s.

Nassiri has selected three players — Diwkar Tapa, Kyrpang Swell (both ASC Centre) and S Pratap Kumar (Corporation Boys High School) — from Bangalore who will join 27 others from other states for a month-long training camp in Kolkata.

"Coaches from Arsenal will train them. The 30-member camp will be pruned to 16, and the squad will be

## FOOTBALL INTER-SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

sent to the United Kingdom for the Arsenal International Soccer Festival," Nassiri said.

Yadav R of Charan's Happy Hours Primary School was adjudged the Most Valuable Player while Manivannan (GSS, Vidyanagar) emerged as the top scorer. Santosh Raj of Angels High School was selected as the best goalkeeper.

"Eleven-year-old Yadav has the potential to become a great player. I would have selected him for the Kolkata camp but he is too thinly-built to play against strong players. Hope he will be there in the team next year," Nassiri said.