

## **The opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> specialized football school in Al Najaf**

Al Najaf Al Achraf- Ahmad Al Ghazali

The 1<sup>st</sup> specialized football school was opened in Al Koufa in AL Najaf in cooperation and direct assistance from the Danish CCPA organization and the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Iraqi Football Federation in addition to Al Koufa Sport Club that hosted the school. The opening of the school was on Al Koufa playground where a number of sport and social personalities attended the ceremony with a good number of reporters.

Baker Hamid the Secretary-General of the executive board of Al Koufa Sport Club said: after we work hard 8 consecutive months now, we are so happy to open this school today; the club is interested in this idea and hopes he could be able to achieve the goals of the school that include 250 students from all ages (from 10 to 16 years old) they will get the necessary training under the supervision of 12 specialized coaches,

Baker Hamid added in his dialogue with (Al Sabah Al Riadi): the opening of this special school for little children will give them talents and they will be trained by good coaches; this experience showed up to be successful in our beloved country despite of all the problems we have faced; this school is trying to develop the sport movement and enhance the football teams with new talent and all of us will benefit from it to improve the Iraqi sport.

Hamid invited the people responsible in the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Olympic Committee and the Football Federation to encourage such project that help to build the sport sector. He considers the children of these schools are able

to be part of the national team or at least part of the 1<sup>st</sup> league teams, and he is determined to go on with that work for these hopes to succeed.

Falah Loueibi, the representative of the Danish organization in Iraq and the coordinator of the school, said that the organization is striving to reunite the people of the countries that were once in war, and Iraq is one example, that's why 4 football schools have been opened till now, the 1<sup>st</sup> one was in Baghdad, the second one in Al Samawat, the 3<sup>rd</sup> on in Karkouk in addition to Al Koufa school, and we are working now on the opening of two schools in the middle of Baghdad so the total number of schools will be seven.

Loueibi added in his talk with (Al Sabah Al Riadi): the organization opened several football schools in the world, in Yugoslavia and Lebanon and Jordan and Syria, and it has succeeded to reach its goals, and it aims to continue with that success in Iraq. The establishment of sport schools in the country will positively reflect the football sector. He emphasizes the necessity to focus on the little ages in these schools that will be the heart of the future.

Hasan Yasser a 10 years old sportsman, participant in this school said: I feel so happy for the opening of this school that we dreamed about because it contains all the sports teams, we train under the supervision of sport teachers and we take advises and instructions from them in addition of the basic physical trainings. He wishes to represent the national team in the future and rise up the name of his country on the international stage.

Translated by Omar Mechleb, CCPA Libanon