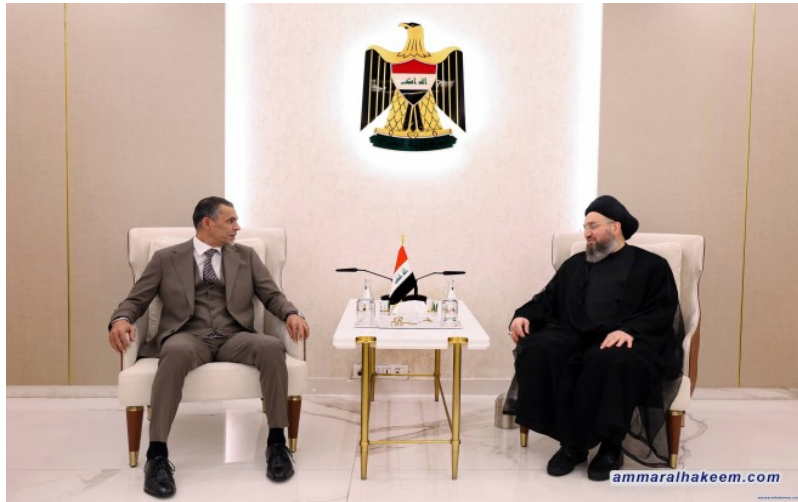


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Stresses Developing Iraqi Football, Caring for Age Categories to Prepare for Upcoming Tournaments



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received in Baghdad Captain Younis Mahmoud, President of the Iraqi Football Association, affirming the importance of this sport and its role in raising Iraq's banner in international forums, calling for attention to the age categories and their respective national teams, as they form the nucleus of the national teams in the coming stage.

Sayyid Al-Hakeem stressed elevating the Iraqi league, caring for infrastructure, and finding outlets and means of financing clubs and national teams independent of the state, which is experiencing financial scarcity due to the ongoing events and the decline in oil exports, stressing the necessity for the national team to receive great attention in the two upcoming tournaments: the Gulf Cup and the Asian Cup.

H.E. also stressed the complementary performance between the Federation, the Olympic Committee, and the Ministry of Youth, along with the importance of nurturing and discovering talent, advancing the state of sports medicine, and benefiting from international expertise in establishing treatment centers with world-class standards.