

Basim Qasim to lead Iraq for remaining World Cup Qualifiers



After a month and a half of searching for a foreign coach to no avail, the Iraq Football Association has decided to give the job to Iraqi coach Basim Qasim on a temporary basis.

Qasim will manage Iraq through the three remaining qualifiers against Japan, Thailand and UAE as well as friendly games that take place during that time. The IFA will at the same time continue looking for a foreign manager to take charge of the team permanently.

The 58 year-old will continue to manage his current side Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya in their league, cup and AFC Cup games, and will be loaned by Jawiya to the national team whenever they have a game.

The news could disappoint some Iraqis, who may feel that the IFA has once more let them down in failing their promise to deliver a foreign coach in time for the upcoming games.

On the other hand, Basim Qasim has an impressive record at club level, having won two Iraqi Premier League titles (including one without defeat last season), an Iraqi Elite Cup, a league and cup double in Yemen and the AFC Cup last year with Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya.

Iraq's next game is a friendly against Jordan that will be held in Basra on 1 June to celebrate the lifting of the ban, while a friendly with South Korea is also scheduled for the 7th of the same month, to be held in the UAE.