

# How Iran's people-friendly president developed unbreakable bond with masses

By Humaira Ahad

As fate would have it, the last provincial trip of the 'People's President', from the border region with Azerbaijan to the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz, ended in his martyrdom.

This time he returned home in a casket draped in the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Visiting the late president's house to offer his condolences, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei commended the tireless spirit of the deceased soul.

"He told me, I returned from a tour at 3 am and found it is not possible to sleep here. In the morning there was a stone-laying ceremony at Karaj," the Leader told the bereaved family members.

"He said, he went to Karaj the same night and rested there for one or two hours to feel fresh in the morning. He had returned from a twenty-day tour. All this work."

President Raisi's untimely and tragic demise in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran, after inaugurating a dam project on the border with Azerbaijan, came as a shock to all and sundry.

A pall of gloom descended on Iran as people took to the streets to mourn their beloved president.

Announcing his death, Iran's cabinet in a statement lauded the "indefatigable and hard-working president" who made the "ultimate sacrifice on the path of serving his nation."

President Raisi, true to his reputation, would always be seen among people, traveling the length and breadth of the country to meet ordinary Iranians and give a patient hearing to their problems.

In his brief presidential stint, he traveled nearly 40,000 km, covering all the provinces. His country-wide trips were mostly reserved for Fridays. The dedicated president preferred spending his weekend among the masses, to be acquainted with their issues and consolidate his connection with people.

## Leader of the Islamic Revolution on Raisi

"The simple lifestyle and minimum formalities in the personal and working behavior of the (Raisi) administration, especially about the

president himself, is impressive to me," the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said about the Iranian president in August 2023.

Ayatollah Khamenei always acknowledged the tireless efforts of President Raisi and his administration in improving the livelihood of the people of Iran.

In a message issued on May 20, a day after the fatal air crash that led to the death of the Iranian president and his companions, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Ayatollah Khamenei described Raisi as a hard-working cleric and a popular president who dedicated his life to serving the people of Iran, the country, and Islam.

"In this bitter tragedy, the Iranian nation lost a warm-hearted, humble, and valued servant," said the Leader, adding that President Raisi never took a break from work despite facing criticism from ill-wishers.

Ayatollah Khamenei regarded Raisi as a "dear and tireless leader", a phrase that had never been used by him for anyone before, showing the admiration Leader had for his hard work and integrity.

"Beloved President Raisi knew no fatigue. In this painful incident, the people of Iran have lost a sincere, dedicated, and valuable servant.

Special Issue  
on Passing of  
President Seyyed  
Ebrahim Raisi and  
his companions