



Classic cars

In another section of the museum, at the vehicle refueling area, several vintage cars are on display, including an old Volkswagen, which structurally differs from all other cars, as its engine is located at the rear and the fuel tank is under the front hood. Next to it is a Benz 190, whose color recalls the old taxis in the capital, which were originally black and white when taxi services were first established in Tehran. Later, the color of taxis in Tehran changed to orange and is now yellow. Another vehicle displayed alongside these cars is a Peugeot 504 belonging to Mohammad Javad Tondgouyan, the first Iranian oil minister after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. In November 1979, at the beginning of the Iran-Iraq War, he was captured by Iraqi forces while visiting the Abadan refinery on the road from Mahshahr to Abadan. After an unknown period of torture, he was martyred. "We found the car during a trip in 2019 with some officials from the oil industry to Abadan. Since we wanted to have a symbol of the former oil minister in the museum, we transferred it to Tehran," Esmaili explained. She also mentioned an old school bus in the museum and said, "During this trip, we visited three old buses in Abadan that were used in the past to transport the children of oil industry personnel between their homes and schools. We brought one of these buses to the museum. This old bus, which has an interesting design, particular-

ly attracts the attention of students visiting the museum." Additionally, there is a very old fuel tanker with the Leyland brand in the museum, located in a corner of the open space next to the drainage pond. Ismaili noted: "At that time, Iran was one of the shareholders of this reputable automotive company, and most of our old tankers are from this brand. This fuel tanker dates back to 1948 and is one of the last surviving fuel tankers that were used to transport products to gas stations during those years." This museum features triple tanks for kerosene, gasoline, and diesel, displayed with ground showcases, illustrating the fuel transfer path to the tanks and from the tanks to the platforms. In the Health and Safety Executive station (HSE), devices and equipment such as explosion-proof phones, handheld extinguishers, buckets filled with sand, alarm bells, and vapor discharge pipes are showcased. Another section of the museum displays a diverse collection of the oldest to the most modern pumps, highlighting the evolution of fuel pumps for visitors. According to Esmaili, the oldest item in the museum is located in this section: A red French pump, manufactured in 1920, which is about 100 years old. The pumping operation of these pumps was done manually, which is why people who worked at fuel stations were referred to as pump operators at that time.



Three rooms

The main and historic building of the gas station consists of three rooms, each dedicated to specific topics. In Room One, documents related to the history of the Darvazeh Dowlat neighborhood, the land purchased for the oil company known as Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, the formation and operation of the gas station, along with photographs, maps, and historical films of this station are displayed. In Room Two, the world events chronicle and the Iran events chronicle (related to the history of gasoline and fuel stations) feature a display board of fuel ra-

tioning documents and coupons in Iran, as well as showcases of regular and super gasoline, diesel, black oil, kerosene, motor oil, and insecticides for visitors to see. Room Three showcases how gas pumps work and their components. This section includes tools and equipment such as a dual-sided gas pump, its disassembled parts, a cutaway of a nozzle device, various types of these devices, and display cases featuring manuals for gas pump devices, motorcycle and car fuel tanks, various gasoline gauges, and more.



Activities and events

Esmaili also explained the activities of the museum and said although it is not very large in terms of size, it is considered a dynamic museum. It has been selected several times as one of the top museums in various fields. As you know, there are about 180 museums in Tehran, whether under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism or other organizations.

Last year, Darvazeh Dowlat Gas Station Museum ranked first among small state museums in terms of creativity and innovation. Additionally, 11,000 visitors visited the museum during the 11 days of the Nowruz holidays last year, which is considered a record, and the museum was also commended for this.

