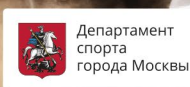




SILK WAY 2022 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



LEG 3. Astrakhan – Astrakhan

Saturday's leg impressed the competitors of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally very much. The vast majority of crews were delighted with the challenging track, even if it caused a lot of problems for them.

An unexpected discovery!

For the second day in a row crew of Vladimir Vasilyev and crew of Denis Krotov have the two best results at the special stage finish. But the name of the driver, who set the third best time among the off-roaders is really surprising: Vladislav Malikov, who competes in the Open standings. In the T1 category Alexander Rusanov became the third.

Unfortunately, Andrey Rudskoy and Evgeny Sukhovenko did not reach the third day finish line. The engine of the G-Force prototype let the Petersburger down, and it is still unknown whether he will be able to start at the fourth leg tomorrow. And the Rostovite's GAZelle went into a large pit at the 87th kilometer of the special stage. As a result, the front axle was damaged, and after another hundred kilometers it came apart completely. The irony is that Evgeny Sukhovenko had exactly the same breakdown yesterday ...



According to the results of three special stages, Vladimir Vasilyev retains leadership in the Car standings. Denis Krotov is second, and Vladislav Malikov secures the third position.

Formula 1 gaps at the cross-country rally?

How is the gap between competitors measured in cross-country rallies? In minutes and hours. And in Formula 1? In seconds and their fractions. However, after the appearance of Nikita Mazepin at the Silk Way Rally start, these two axioms can be questioned. The fact is that at the Prologue on Thursday Mazepin lost three seconds to his closest opponent. At yesterday's special stage there were three seconds again. And today there are five seconds!

A newcomer to the world of cross-country rallies – Mazepin is taking part in his first race in this kind of motorsport – he completed the third day of the Silk Way Rally with the third result, leaving such experienced rivals as Sergey Karyakin, Anastasia Nifontova, Alexey Tuzov, and Armen Puzyan behind.

Only two drivers finished ahead of Mazepin – Alexey Cherkesov, the winner of the third special stage, and Dmitry Cherkesov, who took the second place. Yesterday the younger brother was faster, but today Alexey took revenge.

Let's pay tribute to Anastasia Nifontova, supported by Gazprom Neft. Yesterday she faced a lot of technical problems and got more than sixteen penalty hours in the very beginning of the rally. It can knock anyone down, but not Nifontova – she did not despair, but continued to fight and finished the third day with the sixth result.

Unfortunately, the Bulgarian crew of Oleg and Alexander Manokhins could not reach the finish line. Their SSV stood still on the track after the drives were cut off in the first part of the special stage.

According to the results of three days of the 2022 Silk Way Rally, Armen Puzyan holds the leadership in the T3 category. The second place is occupied by Nikita Mazepin, and Dmitry Cherkesov rounds out the top three.

Sotnikov's revenge and KAMAZ's hat-trick

Technical problems can even interfere with the main favorites of any rally – Dmitry Sotnikov, the three-time winner of the Silk Way Rally, was not an exception: yesterday due to a breakdown he could not fight for leadership. But today the KAMAZ-master team driver has convincingly proved that his claims for the fourth title in the rally are eligible.



БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!

At the finish line Sotnikov was the best at the Truck category. His teammates Andrey Karginov and Eduard Nikolaev supported Dmitry's initiative and had the second and third results respectively.

Sergey Kupriyanov, who competed in the newest gas-diesel KAMAZ, finished the third special stage with the fourth result. But a real sports tragedy happened to the drivers of the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team...

There were problems with the rear wheels on the trucks of Sergey Vyazovich and Alexey Vishnevsky – they simply could not withstand the load, the tread divided into layers, and the wheel itself swelled. Both Vishnevsky and Vyazovich did not have time to stop and change the wheel before it completely deflated. But if the former changed only a flat tire, then on the latter's truck there was only one disk left from the wheel. Putting the spare wheel on, the crew went on, but soon saw similar symptoms again, and after the stop a similar picture appeared, but with a different wheel.

But the most unpleasant thing is that despite the fact that the disc from the first burst wheel was fixed, it still could not stand the shaking and fell out of the mount. Now Vyazovich's crew will tackle a fine for the lost wheel.

Vishnevsky's result, in addition to two flat tires, also suffered from a burst turbine pipe and a broken fastening of the co-driver's seat...

As a result, at the end of the day, the Belarusian crews set only the fifth and sixth times – Vyazovich lost half an hour to the day leader Sotnikov, and Vishnevsky – more than fifty minutes.

Alexey Khlebov, Mikhail Shklyaev and Alexander Laguta had the seventh, eighth and ninth results.

After three days of the rally Andrey Karginov took the lead in the Truck category. Dmitry Sotnikov takes the second place, ahead of Eduard Nikolaev, who is the third. Sergey Vyazovich and Sergey Kupriyanov round out the top five.

Maximov and Naumov pull away

Alexander Maximov, the current winner of the Silk Way Rally in the Quad standings, set the best time as yesterday, far ahead of his rivals. Alexander Gilemov took the second place, but lost two hours, and Dmitry Kalinin, who became third, lost two hours and eleven minutes.

Alexey Naumov, another Friday leader, won the special stage in the Moto standings again, leaving Evgeny Tikhonov and Alexander Gatiyatulin behind.



БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!

First victory for LADA

Dmitry Voronov, who is supported by AVTOVAZ, the car partner of the rally, secured the first victory at the Silk Way Rally special stages. Merdan Toylyev was the runner-up, and Shamyrat Gurbanov became the third.

Unfortunately, Suleyman Annamamedov and Parakhat Garlyev could not finish the third special stage – after falling into the pit, they had to retire.

Discovering the Astrakhan "Africa"

Today, the competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category that is held for the first time as part of the Silk Way Rally, went to the sands of the Astrakhan Region.

In the morning they learned how to ride on the sand professionally. And then, using the section of the second stage route that took place yesterday, they tested their new skills. The highlight of the route was the legendary dune called "Africa".

Vladimir Vasilyev won Gold of Kagan Baja

The Gold of Kagan Baja, the third round of the Russian Cross-Country Championship, held as part of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally, has ended today. According to the preliminary results, Vladimir Vasilyev became the baja winner. Andrey Karginov took the second place in the overall standings, Dmitry Sotnikov secured the second position.

What to expect tomorrow?

On the fourth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally, the rally competitors will have a leg along the Astrakhan-Grozny route with a total distance of 589 km and competitive distance of 344 km.

The URAL Automobile Plant is the automotive partner of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally. It provided the rally organizers with unique trucks, buses and tow trucks. URAL brand vehicles have high cross-country characteristics and will help organizers and drivers solve the most challenging tasks that may arise during off-road competition. Today one of these vehicles has brought a group of journalists to the observation point at the Big Brother dune.



БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!