



SILK WAY 2022 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



LEG 6. Grozny – Elista

The 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally has crossed its equator – five stages are left behind and five more have to be overcome. The sixth special stage of the race was marked by record results, a drastic change in weather, and the disappearance of several fast crews from the list of competitors.

Leader, but not the fastest

The sixth leg of the 2022 Silk Way Rally was held as the marathon. After its completion the competitors have to repair their cars, trucks, SSVs, quads and motorcycles by themselves with the help of spare parts and tools that they could take on board.

Vladimir Vasilyev, the race leader, continues to win the special stages – today he has been the best in the Car category for the fifth time in a row. His success was overshadowed by only two facts. First, at some point, the steering wheel came unfastened from the quick-release latch on the steering shaft, but the crew coped with it. And second, Vasilyev became the best in the Car category, but not the best in the overall standings – this time he failed to get ahead of Dmitry Sotnikov's KAMAZ.

However, this is unlikely to upset Vasilyev, because the fact that his main pursuer Denis Krotov left behind once again, losing more than twenty minutes, is much more important.



Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny Sukhovenko from the GAZ Raid Sport team finished the SS6 with the third and fourth results, respectively. However, at this leg each of them lost almost two hours to the leader.

Andrey Rudskoy, who had a great pace yesterday, has not started at the special stage today – he refused to continue the fight.

Nifontova at the double

The Russian female crew of Anastasia Nifontova and Ekaterina Zhadanova won the SS6 in the SSV standings. Snag Racing teammates Nikita Mazepin and Sergey Karyakin finished the second and third. The crews of Dmitry Mordkovich and Armen Puzyan rounded out the top five. Mazepin and Karyakin have reduced the backlog from the leader of the standings Armen Puzyan – there is an escalation in the group of leaders.

On Tuesday two leaders did not start at SS6 – brothers Aleksey and Dmitry Cherkesov, who took the second and third places in the SSV standings. They also refused to continue the fight.

Will he finish or not?

Fans of Sergey Vyazovich, the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team leader asked this question. Tire problems experienced by the Belarusian crew from the very beginning of the rally could become a stumbling block for both the crew and the team's second truck driver Alexey Vishnevsky. That is why the trucks of Vyazovich and Vishnevsky were loaded with four spare wheels before the start. And this stock was not excessive!

At the finish line Sergey Vyazovich admitted that he was left without three wheels – he changed two of them, and one more lasted until the end of the SS6 distance, but it was impossible to go further on it. Thus the leader's truck had only one spare tire for tomorrow's leg. Aleksey Vishnevsky turned out to be more saving and kept all four spare wheels. But he had another problem – the superstructure of the truck body fell apart. At the evening bivouac in Elista the Belarusian crews will have to work hard and, probably, make some difficult decisions. For example, how many spares will be taken by each crew for tomorrow's special stage? So far there are no answers to these questions ...

The KAMAZ-master team drivers do not have such problems. Today Dmitry Sotnikov has not only recorded the absolute best time among all competitors of the 2022 Silk Way Rally, but has also had the maximum average speed from the very beginning of the rally. Namely, 92.8 km/h. Neither racing trucks nor the Car standings leader Vladimir Vasilyev have driven with such a high average speed this year.



MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!

Eduard Nikolaev achieved the second score at SS6. Andrey Karginov, who has covered Dmitry Sotnikov today, was the third. Sergey Vyazovich finished fourth, Sergey Kupriyanov fifth, and Alexey Vishnevsky sixth.

Six legs and 2,200 kilometers of distance are behind, and the gap between Eduard Nikolaev, the Truck classification leader, and the second Dmitry Sotnikov is seven seconds! What a close duel!

Sergey Vyazovich rounds out the top three according to the results of six special stages – his backlog from Nikolaev is more than one hour. Alexey Vishnevsky and Alexey Khlebov follow him.

Maximov builds advantage

Another victory of Alexander Maximov at the special stage of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally was overshadowed by the fact that his teammate Alexander Gilemov could not reach the finish line today. The situation the Moto standings is much better – Alexey Naumov, the sixth special stage winner, was only six and a half minutes ahead of Alexander Gatyatulin, who became second. The third time was set by Evgeny Tikhonov.

Maximum possible

After two days of failures Dmitry Voronov driving the LADA Niva was finally able to take to the extreme – he was the first at the finish line of the marathon special stage, with a wide margin from his rivals. Shamyrat Gurbanov, who became the second, lost almost an hour to Voronov, and Merdan Toylyev rounded out the top three.

Journey through Chechnya is continuing...

Today the competitors of the new “Following Peter the Great” Grand Tour category, which is held as a part of the Silk Way Rally for the first time, had a rather calm day. In the morning they went to the Argun Gorge, where they admired the Chechen Republic beauties. In the afternoon they gathered at the bivouac to complete the task, for which they will receive additional points – this is a test of the crew’s coherence and their mutual understanding.

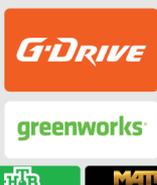
What to expect tomorrow?

On the seventh day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally the competitors will have a circle leg along Elista - Elista route with a total distance of 350 km and competitive distance of 310 km. In the evening all sports vehicles will finally be handed over to the night mechanics, so that the crews will be ready for the start of the eighth leg of the rally.



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The national video hosting RUTUBE is the information partner of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally. A special section has been created on the platform, where all the materials related to the race are collected. The official channel of the Silk Way Rally on RUTUBE publishes reviews of each racing day and broadcasts live from the bivouac of the rally. RUTUBE bloggers have made a crew and take part in a special amateur category "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour for the first time. The video hosting will release a film about it.



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