

20170713

SILK WAY RALLY – FEED 6 (STAGE 6 SEMEY-URZHAR)

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POSTCARD URZHAR

- 10" COUNTDOWN
- 18" INTRO CREDITS
- 44" SHOTS OF URZHAR

Welcome to Stage 6 of the Silk Way Rally, which arrives today in the village of Urzhar.

Nestled in the shadow of the Tarbagatai mountain range, in eastern Kazakhstan, it is one of the final outposts on the road to China, and situated around 100 kilometres from the border.

Founded as recently as 1928, Urzhar has grown into the largest village in the district, with a population of around 19,000.

Farming and agriculture are at the heart of the local economy.

HIGHLIGHTS CARS

- 8" MAP OF STAGE 6

Just under 600 kilometres to cover on Stage 6 between Semey and Urzhar ... with 387k of special.

- 3" BEAUTY SHOTS

Do not speak

- 25" SHOTS OF LOCALS AT START OF STAGE + CYRIL DESPRES #100

The locals once again out in force as the Silk Way prepares to step things up a gear in the coming days... especially when the rally crosses into China tomorrow...

Cyril Despres opening the piste after his impressive win on Stage 5 ... but the defending champion, second in the overall, would go on to lose most of the time he gained on Sebastien Loeb yesterday, finishing ninth.

- 18" SHOTS OF BRYCE MENZIES #105 ONBOARD

Bryce Menzies making a rapid start to the day's special, but lost a fair bit of time in the second part of the stage and eventually dropped half an hour ...

He did though manage to hold on to third place overall.

- 7" ONBOARD SHOTS OF CAR BEING OVERTAKEN

Don't speak

11" SHOTS OF ADRIAN DI LALLO #135 ONBOARD

We're onboard here with Australian Adrian Di Lallo, who is cruising towards overall victory in the T2 class ... his only real rival, Akira Muiira, failed to start today's stage after a crash.

13" SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIELLE #108 – 5TH

Christian Lavieille continuing his push for third place...

The Frenchman, who's racing for Chinese outfit Baicmotor, fifth in this stage and overall ... but he's only two and a half minutes off the podium...

7" BEAUTY SHOTS

Don't speak

16" SHOTS OF LU BINGLONG #130 – 4TH

The Chinese drivers continue to impress as they approach their homeland... Lu Binglong pipping his teammate Lavieille to fourth place here, by just six seconds!

21" SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107 – 3RD

And what a Silk Way Han Wei is having ... the leader of the Geely Auto Team returned to the rally this year looking to improve on an excellent 6th place in 2016, and so far he's doing just that.

With a third-placed finish here he moved up to 4th overall, only 35 seconds behind Menzies.

15" ITW HAN WEI IN CHINESE

"It was a very tough special section today – a huge test for the co-drivers, in terms of navigation. But my co-driver Min Liao did a great job, so we had a smooth drive and got a good result."

21" SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104 – 2ND

Up at the front, we find the familiar sight of car number 104 – Peugeot's Sebastien Loeb.

The Frenchman came second on then stage to extend his lead to over an hour, having put 14 minutes into teammate Despres.

6" BEAUTY SHOTS

Do not speak.

19" SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL – 1ST

Loeb was over 15 minutes down on the stage winner though – teammate Stephane Peterhansel, who took his second victory of this year's rally.

A nice confidence-booster for Mr Dakar after two miserable days ... even with this win, though, he remains 3 hours and 22 minutes off the pace.

15" ITW STEPHANE PETERHANSEL IN FRENCH

"We had a good special today, after two days of problems. We enjoyed ourselves today, the car was nicely balanced. We started to see the first mountain sections, with some really nice scenery."

15" CAR STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

A dominant drive from Peterhansel then, with Loeb just snatching second place ahead of Han. Lu and Lavieille complete the top five.

Loeb's lead is 1 hour, 3 minutes and 41 seconds - while the battle for third place is hotting up nicely.

FEATURE: OLDEST AND YOUNGEST ON THE SILK WAY (2'58")

1" CAPTION

21" SHOTS OF SERGE LACOURT #318 & ALIAKSEI VISHNEUSKI #316

They are separated by forty years, but united by a common passion.

Serge Lacourt – who turns 65 on Sunday - and 25-year-old Aliaksei Vishneuski are, respectively, the oldest and youngest competitors at this year's Silk Way Rally.

6" ITW SERGE LACOURT IN FRENCH

"I started in 1983, and aside from a few breaks - for family reasons - I've never stopped."

16" ITW ALIAKSEI VISHNEUSKI IN BELARUSIAN

"My name is Aliaksei Vishneuski, and I started my driving career with karting, at the age of 6. I did that for 10 years, and won several competitions in Belarus."

15" SHOTS OF LACOURT TALKING + ONBOARD

Don't speak

7" ITW SERGE LACOURT IN FRENCH

"I'm driving a race assistance truck, so I have to be as close as possible to the cars. I'm not here to compete."

3" DON'T SPEAK

22" ITW ALIAKSEI VISHNEUSKI IN BELARUSIAN

"My main objective in this kind of competition is to win. Everybody wants to win, of course, but rally raid is a really tough discipline, especially the Silk Way Rally. Absolutely anything can happen."

18" SHOTS OF VISHNEUSKI ONBOARD + STOPPED

Well he may have been targeting victory, but things aren't going quite as planned for Vishneuski in his Maz.

After six stages, he is 9th in the overall standings, over 7 hours off the pace.

Still, he is picking up valuable experience for the future.

10" SHOTS OF VISHNEUSKI AT BIVOUAC

Don't speak

3" SHOTS OF LACOURT

Don't speak

18" ITW SERGE LACOURT IN FRENCH

"It's a real passion, I love it. Even if we're not actually doing the rally, it feels like we are, because we're given the freedom to be out on the track with the competitors. It's a real pleasure to feel like an actual racing driver, as well as working for the assistance."

6" SHOTS OF VISHNEUSKI RACING

Don't speak

12" ITW ALIAKSEI VISHNEUSKI IN BELARUSIAN

"It's hard to describe what it feels like, riding in a huge 10-tonne truck. Obviously you have to take it easy sometimes, but when you put your foot down you can hit some serious speed, it's exhilarating."

4" DON'T SPEAK

10" ITW SERGE LACOURT IN FRENCH

"I began in logistics, as a truck driver, because I was following in my parents' footsteps. I know every aspect of the job – so why do anything else?"

4" DON'T SPEAK

HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS

2" GRAPHIC TRUCKS

12" BEAUTY SHOTS + LOCALS WITH KAMAZ TRUCKS AT START

Over to the trucks, where Kamaz sent out a real statement of intent in yesterday's stage, with a 1-2-3 – would there be a reaction from their rivals in this sixth stage?

6" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307 START

In the early part of the stage it looked like lightning would strike twice, as the Russian armada once again made a flying start...

10" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300 – 4TH OVERTAKING GERARD DE ROOY #302

Airat Mardeev sweeping past poor old Gerard De Rooy, who's out of the running after being handed 112 and a half hours' worth of penalties yesterday, mainly for abandoning the special.

10" SHOTS OF DE ROOY ONBOARD

It certainly hasn't been a Silk Way Rally to remember for De Rooy... he was eighth today.

8" SHOTS OF TRAIN + MIKLOS KOVACS #317

Don't speak

4" SHOTS OF DE ROOY AT END OF SPECIAL

Disappointment for the Dutchman.

12" ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN ENGLISH

“We had the same problem as yesterday, so something in the suspension of the truck broke off. So we had to slow down for the last 100km.”

18” SHOTS OF SIARHEI VIAZOVICH #304 – 10TH

De Rooy wasn't the only one struggling ... Siarhei Viazovich looked on course for a top-two finish here – he was only 2 seconds off the pace at the final way point.

But the Maz leader ground to a halt in the final timed section and eventually came in 10th, losing 56 minutes.

10” BEAUTY SHOTS

Don't speak

31” SHOTS OF ARTUR ARDAVICIUS #310 – 5TH

There was a bit of resistance from local hero Artur Ardavicius...

The Kazakh is now leading the charge for Iveco, and came in 5th on this sixth stage, around 6 minutes behind the day's winner.

34” SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303 – 3RD

Dmitry Sotnikov went about as fast as it's possible to go in a truck yesterday, finishing the stage mere minutes shy of the cars winner, Cyril Despres...

This was another good day for the 2013 champion... he finished third to marginally extend his overall lead.

18” SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311 – 2ND

As things stand, only Martin Kolomy looks like a serious threat to Kamaz.

The Czech with another excellent drive in his Tatra to finish second on the day, only 39 seconds back.

He's around 13 minutes off the pace overall.

18” SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

Of the four Kamaz, Eduard Nikolaev has struggled the most in this Silk Way Rally, but the Dakar winner showed what he's capable of with a controlled stage win here.

Nevertheless, he remains 2 hours and 8 minutes shy of teammate Sotnikov.

11” ITW EDUARD NIKOLAEV IN RUSSIAN

“We have been waiting for these stages, because now the real marathon is underway. This is where we Kamaz will come to the fore.”

15” TRUCKS STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

Another keenly-contested stage then, with just 6 minutes and 37 seconds separating the top six.

In the overall, there are just 2 minutes and 12 seconds between Sotnikov and Shibalov, while Kolomy isn't far behind.

TOMORROW

15" ITW LUC ALPHAND IN ENGLISH + MAP STAGE 7

"Seventh stage in between Urzhar and Karamay. It's quite a short one, it's only 106 kilometres, but really nice driving skills. Narrow roads, a change of vegetation, small hills. So it's great! And after the stage, we arrive in China!"

1" GRAPHIC

5" ITW KAMAZ GIRL IN ENGLISH

"See you tomorrow in China for the second part of the Silk Way Rally."

13" END CREDITS

END OF PROGRAMME