



# SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



## PRESS RELEASE

Bivouac at Elista, 22 July 2018

Temperature: 31°

GMT +3

**S.2 – ASTRAKHAN-ELISTA: “Marathon in Kalmoukie” - 472,60 km**

**Special Stage 2: 365 km**

## AL-ATTIYAH AND KARGINOV ADVANCE THEIR PIECES...

Nasser Al-Attiyah (Toyota Hilux n°101) in the car class, and Andrey Karginov (Kamaz-Master n°309), in the trucks, win the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the 2018 SILK WAY RALLY. At the end of this marathon stage, without assistance at the bivouac in Elista, capital of the Republic of Kalmoukie... and of chess, the day's two winners move their pieces forward. But on the eve of the return trip to Astrakhan, the match would appear particularly delicate and uncertain!

## Of note:

# Cars: Al-Attiyah remains in front... but only with front wheel drive!

# T2 & T3 : women in control...

# Trucks: Kamaz 6 out 6

# Tomorrow: “Back to the future...”

**Cars: Al-Attiyah remains in front... but only with front wheel drive!**





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It has nearly been one hour that Nasser Al-Attiyah and Matthieu Baumel have been turning around their Toyota Hilux, cordoned off until tomorrow morning in the parc ferme set up in the heart of Elista. Despite a second win in two days, their concern is palpable. 125 kilometres into the second special stage the rear differential of their Toyota Hilux gave up the ghost. Not enough to stop the leaders but a problem that couldn't come at a worse time, the day of the marathon stage, where the competitors are left to their own devices, without outside assistance. *'Tomorrow will be a damage limitation exercise. If we lose 6 or 10 minutes it will be OK. But the transmission has to hold up until we get to the finish'*, declares the Qatari driver, who in addition was penalised one minute for speeding on the stage. With that added to their time, the leaders are this evening only 3:34 ahead of the Peugeot 3008 DKR Maxi No 107 of British driver Harry Hunt, third on the day, slotting in between the MINI John Cooper Works of Saudi Yazeed Al Rahji and a Nani Roma, who's health, moral and racing spirit increased progressively as he approached the capital of the Republic of Kalmoukie. One thing is sure: tomorrow's 332 km special stage back to Astrakhan is likely to turn into a fine game of chess!

## T2 & T3 category in brief

### Women in control

In the T2 category, second on the day behind the Toyota Land Cruiser of Chinese driver, the Russian Anastasia Nifontova (Toyota Land Cruiser No 132) holds onto a comfortable lead overall in the production class. This evening in Elista, there are also two woman at the top of the T3 category. Taking full advantage of previous leader Nicolas Duclos's (Polaris RZR n°117) roll after CP1, Mariia Oparina and Taisiia Shtaneva (Maverick X3 n°115) move up to the overall lead 1:30 in front of the Bulgarian Cenkov (Quaddy Yxz n°130), winner of this 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.

### Trucks: Kamaz 6 out of 6





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The day after a less than successful first stage, the result of a multitude of niggling little problems, Team Kamaz-Master were today back on form. And while Andrei Karginov (Kamaz-Master No 309) took the stage win ahead of team mates Sotnikov and Nikolaev, victim of a broken wheel 20 kms from the finish, Mardeev, Shibalov and Kupriyanov complete an impress grouping for the Russian manufacturer. Overall, Karginov is just 1:47 ahead of Sotnikov, a gap that promises a fine fight between the two team mates tomorrow as they head back to Astrakhan. After the problems of Martin Van Den Brink (Renault Mammoet n°304), still repairing his front end after yesterday's stage – he hopes to restart Tuesday -, this second stage caused big problems for all four of the Belarus MAZ Sport Auto team trucks. While Vitaly Muryliou decided not to take the start following engine troubles, one after the other, Vishneuski (engine), Vasilievskiy (stuck) and Viazovich (turbo) successively accumulated difficulties...

## ROAD BOOK

### Tomorrow: Stage 3 – ELISTA-ASTRAKHAN : “Back to the future” - 475,38 km

Back to Astrakhan for the second part of the marathon stage (475,38 km, of which 332 are special stage). Two thirds of the special are very fast before the profile becomes less rolling than the previous day towards the end of the special. On the programme: demanding driving and plenty of navigation, with the slightest error by co-driver potentially costing big time in the final overall results. The first authorised assistance ‘oasis’ will be situated two thirds of the way into the special at CP2 km 215,52. Though it won't be a leisurely break as the clock will still be turning. Care will also need to be taken over the 5 km section of off-piste through the vegetation (km 241,56) which could catch out more than one...

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Elista chess capital







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On arriving at Elista, at the end of the first part of the 2018 SILK WAY RALLY marathon stage competitors could take a few strategy lessons from the ancient game of chess. Led between 1993 and 2010 by Kirsan Ilioumjinov, the Republic of Kalmoukie is heavily influenced by the leaders passion for chess. Ilioumjinov, also president of the international chess federation (FIDE), turned Elista into the world chess capital after having built the City Chess complex, entirely dedicated to the game. In addition there is a chess museum in which is housed the personal collection of one of the great players from the Soviet era, Mikhaïl Tal. And if that wasn't enough, chess is also on the school programme throughout the Republic of Kalmoukie !

## INTERVIEWS

### CARS

**Nasser Al-Attiyah (Qat/Toyota Hilux n°101- 1<sup>ST</sup>)**

**'Only front wheel drive from kilometres 100...'**

'We have a problem with the rear differential. After 100 kilometres we only have front wheel drive. Not easy but we finish. Now we cannot do anything because it is a marathon day. I hope tomorrow will be ok. We will try and do our best. If the road is like today shouldn't be too big a problem for us.'

**Yazeed Al Rajhi (SAR/MINI John Cooper Works n°103 – 2<sup>ND</sup>)**

**'Everything OK'**

'Everything OK. After 90 kilometres we catch Hunt. We stay in his dust and after I overtake him. Then at around kilometre 180 he overtakes me again and then I follow him to the finish because his car has good top speed'

**Harry Hunt (G-B/Peugeot 3008 DKR Maxi n°107 – 3<sup>RD</sup>)**

**Not a great day**

'We were slow – it wasn't a great stage.'

**Nani Roma (Spa/MINI John Cooper Works n°104 – 4<sup>TH</sup>)**

**'Feeling better now...'**





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'It was Ok – I'm here. Wasn't easy for me this morning. I didn't feel very well before the start, I didn't sleep too well last night. In the beginning of the stage I didn't feel really confident but it got better and better and I tried to push. Now I feel OK'

**Mathieu Serradori (Fra/Buggy SRT n°108 – 7TH)**

**'Good stage for us – tomorrow maximum attack...'**

'Today was a good stage for us. My start position made things a little difficult but that's racing. Fabien did a good job with the navigation and tomorrow we will go as hard as we can.'

## TRUCKS

**Eduard Nikolaev (Rus/ Kamaz-Master n°301 – 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**'I didn't see a thing!'**

'We were having a really good special. Our pace was very good and very thing was going well. But 20 kms from the finish, we were driving in the dust of Airat (Mardeev) and I couldn't see much. Suddenly we touched a brick wall. The front left wheel exploded. It took us 10 minutes to carry out repairs. Without that we would have without doubt taken this 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.'

