



SILK WAY RALLY 2018 丝绸之路拉力赛



PRESS RELEASE

Bivouac in Lipetsk, 26 July 2018

Temperature: 25°

GMT +3

S.6 – VOLGOGRAD – LIPETSK: “The Longest Stage” - 766,78 km

Special Stage 6: 373,50 km

AL ATTIAH... 4X4 POWERED!

Nasser Al-Attiyah (Toyota Hilux n°101) has won this 6th and penultimate stage of the SILK WAY RALLY in the car class. In the process the Qatari driver moves up to second place overall behind Yazeed Al Rajhi (MINI John Cooper Works n°103), who by finishing 3rd today maintains a comfortable lead. In the trucks, the longest stage of this 2018 edition allowed Andrei Karginov (Kamaz-Master n°309) to win his 3rd stage victory and take the overall lead on the eve of the finish in the Red Square in Moscow.

OF NOTE

Cars: Al Rajhi, the manager

T2 & T3: Tough luck for Nifontova

Trucks: handing over the reins of power

Tomorrow: “Finish in Red Square»





SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



From Kleinschmidt to Opariina...

Cars: Al Rajhi, the manager

He made his intentions clear yesterday on arriving in Volgograd : *'I won't take the slightest risk before getting to Moscow...'* Starting 2nd this morning, behind his team mate Nani Roma (MINI John Cooper Works n°104), Yazeed Al Rajhi (MINI John Cooper Works n°103), was happy to simply manage his comfortable lead of over one hour and rely on the proven reliability of his MINI. After four days struggling with his rear differential and gearbox, Nasser Al-Attiyah (Toyota Hilux n°101), four times winner of the FIA All Terrain Rallies World Cup and two times Dakar winner, took a radically different approach. With a car that was at last repaired and able to function to its full potential, the Qatari driver literally flew over the special stage, overtaking one after the other each of the eight competitors that started in front of him. Finishing in the wake of Nani Roma, Nasser Al-Attiyah and Matthieu Baumel took their third stage win on this SILK WAY RALLY to take the 2nd place overall. A place that Mathieu Serradori and Fabian Lurquin (Buggy SRT n°108) were unable to defend due to mechanical problems suffered after CP1 (km 112) that effectively wiped out their day. Towed more than 240 kilometres by the Toyota of Italian competitor Marco Piana, they lost more than 4 hours and only managed to hold on to a place on the podium 'thanks' to the mechanical problems suffered by the Russian driver Rudskoy (Proto G-Force n°110).

T2 & T3 categories in brief

Tough luck for Nifontova

In the T2 category, this 6th stage proved disastrous for Nifontova (Toyota Land Cruiser n°132). Stuck in the dunes north of Volgograd, the Russian driver was forced to head for the tarmac and in so doing waving had to settle for third place on the podium in her class. All of which proved highly favourable for the Chinese competitors Chinois Zi Yun Gang and Lu Binglong (Toyota Land Cruiser n°134 and 128) who monopolise the first two places both on the stage and overall. In the SSVs (T3 category), the Russian competitors Opariina and Shtaneva (Maverick X3 n°115) held steady. Victory on the stage and a first place overall reinforced the all-female crew's position as they continue to resist the Bulgarian Petar Cenkov (Quaddy Yxz





SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



n°130) and the Frenchman Nicolas Duclos and his British co-driver Steven Griener (Polaris RZR n°117).

Trucks: Handing over the reins of power at Kamaz

Everything changed a few kilometres from a water crossing (km 249) where many spectators had gathered. While Andrei Karginov (Kamaz-Master n°309) sent up walls of water to the delight of the public, stopped on the track, Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz-Master n°300) quickly came to the realisation that his race is over. The drive shaft of his Kamaz had given up the ghost. One after the other, his team mates Mardeev and Shibalov stopped to try and help him out. But in vain... The two times winner of the SILK WAY RALLY and title holder passed the flame to Karginov, winner of the special stage and new race leader, 17:39 ahead of his dauphin and team mate Airat Mardeev.

ROAD BOOK

Tomorrow: Stape 7 - LIPETSK-MOSCOU: "Finish in Red Square!" - 497,22 km

As the thickness of the road book would suggest, the 7th and final stage (497,22 km), taking the competitors from Lipetsk to Moscou for the finish of this 2018 SILK WAY RALLY, could well decide in terms of navigation over the 191,70 km special stage run through the fields and thus upset the rankings. Care will need to be taken with the many changes of direction and also with the many spectators who will be alongside the route. It is a last special that is not to be underestimated. The arrival of the first competitors at the final podium, set up in the Red Square in Moscow, is scheduled for around 18:00 (GMT +3).

DID YOU KNOW?

From Kleinschmidt to Opariina

21 years ago, not far from Timbuktu the German driver Jutta Kleinschmidt became the first woman to win a stage on the Dakar. Four years later, driving a Mitsubishi, she managed to win the event outright. Germans Patricia Scheck and Andrea Mayer, the Spaniard Laia Sanz and now the Russian Anastasia Nifontova have all made an impact on the world of rally-raid. On this 2018 SILK WAY RALLY, since the start in Astrakhan, there have been three female competitors at the shape end of their categories. After having shone on the tracks of Africa and elsewhere in the motorcycle class, Anastasia Nifontova has switched to four wheels thanks to the dynamism of Toyota Russia and has run at the front of the T2 class for





SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



production vehicles for much of the rally. Mariina Opariina and Tasiia Shtaneva are already winners here taking victory in Xi'an last year in the T3 (SSV) and it looks like they may well pull off the same feat this year in the Red Square in Moscow aboard their little fluorescent Maverick X3. The consecration of all their hard work which opens the way to winning the Russian Championship. Hats off to you!

INTERVIEWS

CARS

Nasser Al-Attiyah (Qat/Toyota Hilux n°101- 1st)

'Now the car is good...'

'Today everything good, we made a good stage and I am quite happy to finish the day without any problems. The last 4 days always a problem with the car but now was good.'

Nani Roma (Spa/MINI John Cooper Works n°104 – 2nd)

'Not easy to open the stage the whole day...'

'Really nice stage. At the beginning a sandy track with small dunes – really nice. Then the last section there was a lot of mud and water. We opened the track the whole day and sometimes it wasn't not easy but we're OK'

Yazeed Al Rajhi (SAR/MINI John Cooper Works n°103 – 3rd)

'Happy to finish with no problems...'

'Today everything good, we made a good stage. Started with a sandy track with dunes and then the finish here with a lot of mud and a lot of water. We take it easy because we don't need to push and I'm happy to finish the day without any problems'

Harry Hunt (G-B/Peugeot 3008 DKR Maxi n°107 – 4th)

'Good fun – but very slippery...'

'Didn't like the stage – for a 2-wheel drive buggy it wasn't very good. It was good fun but too slippery and lots of mud and we got stuck twice in the beginning in the sand.'

TRUCKS

Andrei Karginov (Rus/Kamaz-Master n°309 – 1st)

'Try to stay on the track'





SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



‘We had a stage with a lot of navigation and my co-driver Andrey Mokeev did a great job. In the high grass the changes in direction weren’t easy to see. Towards the end the ground became heavier and more slippery. We tended to drive next to the piste to try and find more grip. And we regularly changed track to try and find one that was drier. Tomorrow we will try and stay on the track. We’ll drive quickly but without taking risks. I just hope it doesn’t rain too much...’

Martin Van Den Brink (NDL/Renault n°304 – 4th)

‘No problem with the truck’

‘It was a nice stage. We started at the back so we had to overtake three trucks and a lot of buggies, and some race. Sometimes slippery but no problems with the truck.’

