



## LEG 5. Grozny – Grozny

The debut of the Chechen and Dagestan special stages in the Russian cross-country rallies was successful – the competitors of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally said that they had not seen such interesting tracks for a long time.

### Rudskoy comes back

Andrey Rudskoy, the Prologue winner, stopped on Saturday at SS3 with a broken engine. On Sunday the team repaired his car, and today the driver from St. Petersburg has started again. And he didn't just start, but raced along the track to the finish line with the third result, letting only two leaders go ahead – Vladimir Vasilyev and Denis Krotov.

Vasilyev was unstoppable again – absolutely the best time and almost a ten-minute break from Krotov, who became the second. Andrey Rudskoy lost sixteen minutes to his countryman.

Evgeny Sukhovenko and Alexander Rusanov rounded out the top five, while the Rostovite finished on the cable – another GAZ Raid Sport driver dragged him.



## Nifontova cut the series of victories of the Cherkesov brothers

Anastasia Nifontova became the SS5 winner in the SSV category. The female driver from Moscow was finally able to cope with technical problems and drove the entire distance of the stage without stops. The result is predictable – the fourth score in the overall standings and leg victory in the SSV standings (T3). Nifontova managed to cut the series of victories of the Cherkesov brothers, who took turns winning the first four special stages.

However, today both Cherkesov brothers have had problems that have not allowed them to fight for the victory. The older brother Alexey was knocked down by the heat – the finish line he admitted that it was very difficult for him, and he was thinking of slowing down. But he managed to complete the special stage and set the second time. The younger brother Dmitry completed the special stage with a damaged suspension – he had to drive about forty kilometers like this. According to the special stage results, Cherkesov Jr. became the fourth. Armen Puzyan finished the third.

The Monday special stage was unsuccessful for the crews of Nikita Mazepin and Dmitry Mordkovich. The steering knuckle in Mazepin's SSV broke, and he had to use the help of Sergey Karyakin, who performs the duties of the crew accompanying the leader. The Muscovite finished the day the sixth, and the Yekaterinburger finished the ninth.

Dmitry Mordkovich rolled over his SSV twice. But in both cases his rivals rushed to the rescue – the crews of Evgeny Frezorger and Sergey Karyakin, respectively. They helped the Team Maria Oparina driver return to the fight. At the end of the day Mordkovich became the tenth.

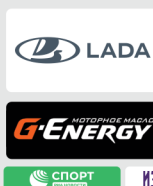
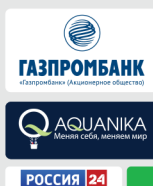
According to the fifth special stage results, Armen Puzyan is the SSV category leader. Alexey Cherkesov and Dmitry Cherkesov take the second and third places respectively.

## MAZ problems continue

Aleksey Vishnevsky from the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team set a kind of unfavorable record today – the Belarusian driver stopped at the 10th kilometer of the SS5 distance. The reason was the turbine failure. Vishnevsky's crew had to change it in the field, which took them almost two hours.

Left without another crew cover, Sergey Vyazovich, the Belarusian team leader, also had problems – he punctured two wheels again and was left without spare wheels fifty kilometers before the finish line. The Belarusian driver was forced to slow down and reach the finish line as carefully as possible. This could not but affect the final result – he set only the fifth time.

Of course, the problems of rivals played in favor of the KAMAZ-master factory team drivers, who finished in the top four. Eduard Nikolaev won the special stage, Andrey



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**

Karginov was the second, the third place was taken by Dmitry Sotnikov, and Sergey Kupriyanov finished the fourth.

After five days Eduard Nikolaev leads the Truck standings ahead of Dmitry Sotnikov and Sergey Vyazovich.

### Can the Quad standings thin out?

Alexander Maximov secured another victory at the special stages of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally. His main rival Alexander Gilemov is experiencing serious technical problems. Three shock absorbers of his ATV have already broken, and there is simply nothing to replace them with. The rider believes that tomorrow he will not be able to continue the rally with a high degree of probability. Dmitry Kalinin, the third competitor of the Quad category, also struggles with his vehicle – he cannot accelerate it faster than 30 km/h, and he was brought to the bivouac in tow. After five special stages Alexander Maximov continues to lead the standings.

The situation in the Moto standings has not changed either. Alexey Naumov continues to set the best time at the special stages, only the names of riders taking the second and third places change. Today it was Dmitry Vankov and Alexander Gatiyatulin.

### Voronov's bad luck

For the second day in a row Dmitry Voronov cannot finish the special stage without any problems. Today the Petersburgers were forced to stop at about the 10th kilometer of the distance – the ball joint broke. Fortunately, the accident was avoided and the crew was not injured.

Merdan Toylyev won SS5, ahead of his teammates Shamyrat Gurbanov and Maxamyrat Donatarov.

### Exploring the beauty of Chechnya

The mountain lake Kezenoy-Am having been today's task for 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. They had to go deep into the mountainous regions of the Chechen Republic. The reward for overcoming challenging twisted roads was the incredibly beautiful and picturesque nature of the high-altitude lake Kezenoy-Am, the largest lake in Chechnya and the Greater Caucasus, located on the border of the Vedensky district of the Chechen Republic and the Botlikh district of Dagestan. The next point of the trip was a visit to the ancient settlement of Khoi. Competitors received vivid impressions that they will remember for a lifetime.



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**

## What to expect tomorrow?

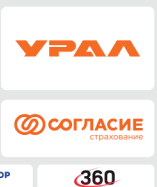
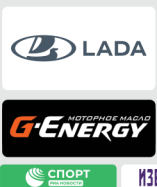
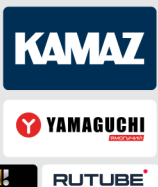
On the sixth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally, the race competitors will have a marathon stage along the route Grozny – Elista with a total distance of 545 km and competitive distance of 485 km. After completing the route of the sixth special stage, the crews will have to repair their cars, trucks, SSVs, quads and motorcycles themselves. Technical support teams will get competing vehicles for breakdown repairs only by the evening of July 13th.

The **Gorky Automobile Plant**, the Silk Way Rally partner, is a leading Russian manufacturer of commercial vehicles. It provided GAZelle NEXT cargo vans and minibuses for transporting equipment and promptly moving the organizer's personnel.

The GAZelle NEXT, the most wide-spread Russian commercial vehicle, is perfect for escorting.



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**