



# SILK WAY 2022 RALLY

## 丝绸之路拉力赛



## LEG 7. Elista – Elista

On the seventh day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally the competitors struggled in Kalmykia – they drove along the circle route from Elista to Elista. The main event of the day was the problems that the rally leader had.

### The race starts again!

Approximately sixty kilometers before the SS7 finish the rally competitors covered exactly half of its distance – 2,232 kilometers out of 4,464 kilometers that the crews must pass were left behind. And practically at the same moment Vladimir Vasilyev, the rally leader, stopped on the track of Wednesday's special stage.

The reason for the stop was the breakdown of the gearbox input shaft. In this situation there is only one way to continue the rally somehow and have a chance of a high result – to get to the special stage finish, and then to the bivouac in tow with the help of another competitor. Andrey Karginov, the KAMAZ-master team driver, helped Vasilyev. He stopped next to the BMW X5 and began towing. Once the tow rope broke, and then a powerful truck jerked off the fasteners of the car's towing eye, where the cable was attached.

Nevertheless, Karginov and Vasilyev reached the SS7 finish line with the second result twenty-five minutes behind the leader.



Denis Krotov became the special stage winner. He was ahead of Vladimir Vasilyev, Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny Sukhovenko.

According to the results of seven special stages, Denis Krotov heads the Car category. Vladimir Vasilyev got a one-hour fine for passing the time control point in a tow. As a result, the he is twenty-two minutes behind the new leader of the race. Alexander Rusanov takes the third place.

### **Motorcyclists did not start because of the weather**

At the seventh leg of the 2022 Silk Way Rally the competitors of Moto and Quad standings due to bad weather and in order to save their strength and vehicles made a collective decision and took the opportunity to skip the leg in accordance with the conditions of the sports regulations. At the same time, all competitors got a penalty of 100 hours that does not change their positions in the standings. The Car standings started in accordance with the starting list.

### **Mazepin's first victory**

Nikita Mazepin, the debutant of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally and the cross-country rallies in general, secured his first victory in the SSV category. At SS7 he left Armen Puzyan and Sergey Karyakin, who took the second and third places, behind. Anastasia Nifontova, who was forced to change a wheel, finished the fourth, Kirill Chernenkov rounded out the top five.

Mazepin leads the standings, ahead of Puzyan by thirteen minutes. Karjakin is the fourth, twenty-five minutes behind his teammate.

### **Nikolaev pulls away**

Eduard Nikolaev from the KAMAZ-master team, the leader of the Truck standings of the Silk Way Rally, won the SS7 and strengthened his leadership to six and a half minutes. His main rival Dmitry Sotnikov, who competes for the same factory team, achieved the second score, but a mistake in navigation cost him precious minutes.

Sergey Kupriyanov, driving a KAMAZ gas-diesel truck, finished in the top three. He managed to get ahead of Sergey Vyazovich from MAZ-SPORTauto team, who lost time due to a wheel explosion once again.

Andrey Karginov finished the seventh special stage with the fifth result in forty minutes from Nikolaev. But such a lag is understandable – he had to pull Vladimir Vasilyev's car to the finish line in tow.

On Wednesday not only the first, but also the second driver of the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team – Alexey Vishnevsky was not lucky with the wheels. But these problems were of a completely different nature than those of Sergey Vyazovich. At some point



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the disk of the rear right wheel broke in two halves, and the tire rolled away. It was not possible to quickly replace the wheel – the rear axle was lying on the ground and had to be lifted by two jacks. Then the crew was looking for the wheel, repaired and continued to move to the finish line. The result is the sixth time.

Positions from seven to nine at the seventh special stage were taken by Mikhail Shklyayev, Alexey Khlebov and Alexander Laguta.

The seventh stage is behind. Eduard Nikolaev is the Truck standings leader. Dmitry Sotnikov is six and a half minutes behind him. Sergey Vyazovich is the third. He loses to Nikolaev one hour and forty-five minutes.

### Looking for improvements

For the second day in a row Dmitry Voronov sets the best time. The will not be able to win back the time lost on the second day, so he is testing the new car in competitive conditions and simultaneously delighting the fans.

The results of SS7 completely repeated the result of SS6 – Shamyrat Gurbanov and Merdan Toylyev finished after Voronov.

### Long way to Kalmykia

Competitors s 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, started the seventh day of the race with an early rise – their cars left the bivouac located on the territory of the Krepost Groznaya circuit at 6:30 in the morning. Using the Road Book, they went to the special stages that the crews of the racing categories had passed the day before. At the same time, the speed of movement along the track was limited. Upon completion of the route, the competitors went to the liaison that led them to Elista, where a welcome reception was held in honor of the Silk Way Rally.

### Kalmykia welcomes the Silk Way Rally

In the morning Batu Khasikov, the Head of the Republic of Kalmykia, visited the bivouac of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally. Vladimir Chagin, the Event Director of the Silk Way Rally, operated Batu Khasikov a tour of the race bivouac. The Head of the Republic of Kalmykia talked to the cross-country rally competitors and wished them a successful finish. Batu Khasikov and the crews took a photo together.

### What to expect tomorrow?

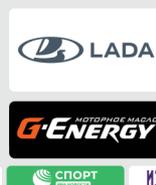
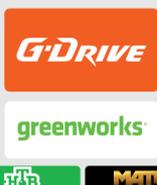
On the eighth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally the race competitors will have a leg along the Elista – Volgograd route with a total distance of 647 km and competitive distance of 444 km.



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**Greenworks** batteries have become the main assistant to the teams at the 2022 Silk Way Rally!

As a technical partner of the race, Greenworks provided a variety of equipment for the competition: chainsaws to remove serious obstacles on the route, trimmers and lawn mowers to comfortably accommodate bivouacs, pressure washers to clean the thickest layer of dirt from trucks and cars.



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