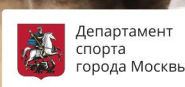




# SILK WAY 2022 RALLY

## 丝绸之路拉力赛



## LEG 8. Elista – Volgograd

The eighth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally led competitors from Kalmykia through the Astrakhan Region territory to Volgograd. And the main event of the day, like yesterday, was the problem of the leader. Now it was not Vladimir Vasilyev, but Eduard Nikolaev.

### Vasilyev attacks!

Vladimir Vasilyev, who lost his leadership in the rally on Wednesday due to a breakdown of the gearbox input shaft in his BMW X5, has pushed hard today. He was simply unstoppable – at SS8 finish line he was the first, ahead of Denis Krotov, the new Car standings leader, by 12.5 seconds. Thanks to this, after eight special stages the gap between them was reduced to 9.5 minutes.

Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny Sukhovenko have finished today with the third and fourth results, losing to Vasilyev about an hour and a half each.

### Nifontova wins, Mazepin increases lead

Anastasia Nifontova, the experienced driver, competing in SSV with the G-Drive fuel logo on the sides, won the SSV standings at SS8, but Nikita Mazepin, the category leader, got the greatest benefit today. The debutant of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally finished the second, ahead of his rivals Sergey Karyakin and Armen Puzyan, who finished the third and sixth respectively. Thus, after the eighth special stage Mazepin



increased his lead to more than half an hour. Armen Puzyan is the second and Sergey Karyakin is the third.

### **Sotnikov's chances for victory increase**

On Wednesday Eduard Nikolaev led the Truck standings and it seemed that today we would see the continuation of his struggle with his KAMAZ-master teammate Dmitry Sotnikov. However, information that the leader's truck was standing still came from SS8 track. The reason was a chain of events that led to a stop. First, the shock absorber fell apart, then the brake hoses were torn, after which the second shock absorber also broke and pierced the main reserve fuel tank.

Eduard Nikolaev eliminated the breakdowns, waited for Sergey Kupriyanov and Andrey Karginov, who were following behind, took some fuel from them, continued to move and finished the fourth, one hour and ten minutes behind Dmitry Sotnikov, who won SS8. Andrey Karginov finished the second, Sergey Kupriyanov took the third place.

Sergey Vyazovich rounded out the top five, but probably the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team leader would like to forget this leg as soon as possible. As soon as the team solved the issue with the tires, there is a new misfortune: the rear part of the truck body superstructure broke. He could not go fast in this situation and was forced to slow down. The result is the seventh time almost two hours behind Sotnikov.

According to SS8, Dmitry Sotnikov is leading. Eduard Nikolaev is the second, 56 minutes behind him. Sergey Vyazovich is the third, but his backlog has already exceeded three and a half hours.

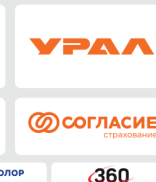
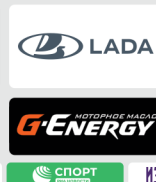
### **Classic Voronov**

Competitors in the classic rally know that if Dmitry Voronov's LADA Sport ROSNEFT does not break down, then it is very-very difficult to fight him. And most of the time it is impossible. The first rally of the new LADA NIVA Legend started with difficulties, but the more reliable the car became, the faster the driver from St. Petersburg became. Today Voronov has won the third special stage in a row, more than an hour ahead of Merdan Toylyev, who became the second. Shamyrat Gurbanov, who became the third, was twenty-five seconds behind Toylyev!

Such keen struggle is caused by the fact that after eight special stages Toylyev and Gurbanov are only eight minutes apart. The third place is occupied by Maxatmyrat Danatarov, and Dmitry Voronov is the fourth.

### **Maximov retired**

Alexander Maximov, the reigning winner of the 2019 Silk Way Rally in the Quad standings, was forced to stop participating in the rally – during the special stage the



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**

rider was injured and evacuated to Astrakhan. His retirement allowed Dmitry Kalinin to secure the first victory since the Silk Way Rally start.

Alexander Gilemov, the third SSV standings competitor, as well as three motorcycle riders Dmitry Vankov, Matvey Rudin and Mikhail Nikitin did not have time to fix all the breakdowns, so in order to prepare for the final special stages of the rally better, they took the opportunity to skip the leg in accordance with the conditions of the rally sports regulations. They took the so-called Joker leg.

Alexey Naumov secured another victory among motorcyclists, ahead of Alexander Gatiyatulin and Evgeny Tikhonov.

### Studying the history of Tsaritsyn

The competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category that is held as a part of the Silk Way Rally for the first time, set off from Elista towards the SS8 sports finish. They had to watch the performance of the sports standings competitors and complete several tasks in Volgograd – all of them were connected with the history of Peter the Great, who visited this city that was previously called Tsaritsyn.

### What to expect tomorrow?

The ninth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally will lead the competitors to Lipetsk. The total distance of the leg along Volgograd – Lipetsk route is 773 km and the competitive distance is 314 km.

**GAZPROM PJSC**, a global energy company, has been with us for many years.

We have been choosing the **Gazpromneft filling station network** as the rally fuel partner for several years in a row for its high-quality indicators. Today this cooperation has grown in practice into a whole program that operates throughout the year, and not just during the days of the rally. These are large online, tourism and social projects that start along with the rally and continue to operate after the finish of the race. Each edition is a new stage and a new project that complements all previous ones

Traditionally, from year to year, the Gazpromneft filling station network helps organizers and competitors to solve key technical, sports and domestic issues. The **G-Energy** high-tech brand of lubricants from Gazprom Neft joined this support. The technical experts from a mobile laboratory will help team mechanics monitor the condition of all vehicles during the rally.

We also highly appreciate the contribution of **Gazprombank**, our financial partner and one of the largest universal banks in Russia, to the development of rallying and motorsport in general.



**MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!**