

SILK WAY RALLY 2017
STAGE 9 (URUMQI – HAMI)

3-MINUTES NEWS ACCESS

SCRIPTING INFO

After Sunday's rest day in Urumqi, the Silk Way Rally returned with a bang on a dramatic ninth stage from Urumqi to Hami, the first to feature proper dunes.

Sebastien Loeb, who had been leading the cars class by over an hour, rolled his Peugeot DKR2008 Maxi early in the day's 421km special, ending his hopes of finally winning a first major rally raid. He reached the fourth waypoint over 7 hours back, and is sure to lose even more time in penalties.

Cyril Despres made the most of his teammate's error to move top of the overall standings. The defending champion is 44m12s ahead of Han Wei. The third Peugeot driver, Stephane Peterhansel, won today's stage (his third victory of the Silk Way), but remains 2½ hours back in the overall.

It was a good day for China as Lu Binglong (Baicmotor) and Liu Kun (Geely) came second and third – Lu just 22 seconds shy of Peterhansel. Han Wei came fourth ahead of Despres in fifth.

In the trucks, Kamaz's domination continued full throttle, as defending champion Airat Mardeev led home his three teammates Dmitry Sotnikov, Anton Shibalov and Eduard Nikolaev in a 1-2-3-4.

Sotnikov, who has led the rally since Stage 5, now leads Shibalov by 14m27s overall. Mardeev is up to third (+26m30s) just ahead of Tatra's Martin Kolomy (+31m30s), who was fifth on the day.

SHOT LIST (3'30")

10"	COUNTDOWN
8"	SHOTS OF CHINESE DUNES
8"	SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104
10"	ONBOARD SHOTS OF LOEB CRASH
036	SHOTS OF LOEB BY CAR
29"	ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB IN FRENCH
"We arrived from over there, and there was a shallow ditch - this is an off-piste section. We were following these tracks, and we couldn't see the ditch from where we were coming. And we're the first car out on the road, obviously. I saw it late, in we went... not very fast, but the front chassis is broken. It's impossible to go on. We'll wait for the assistance truck to patch ourselves up and get moving again, but it's going to be a long wait."	
5"	SHOTS OF LOEB'S CAR
27"	SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106 – 1 ST
9"	SHOTS OF LU BINGLONG #130 – 2 ND (+0'22")
4"	WIDE DESERT SHOT

25" SHOTS OF LIU KUN #121 – 3RD (+2'03)
24" SHOTS OF KAMAZ TRUCKS + AIRAT MARDEEV #300 – 1ST
14" SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303 – 2ND (+0'36")
20" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312 – 3RD (+5'09")
10" WIDE SHOT OF KAMAZ TRUCK
END

12-MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

1. INTRO + HIGHLIGHTS CARS
2. FEATURE: BAICMOTOR RACING TEAM
3. HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS
4. POSTCARD
5. TOMORROW + OUTRO

INTRO + HIGHLIGHTS CARS

10" COUNTDOWN
16" OPENING CREDITS
16" ONBOARD SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104 CRASH
Don't speak
8" MAP OF STAGE 9

Welcome back to the Silk Way Rally, and a dramatic Stage 9 between Urumqi and Hami...

18" SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104 AFTER CRASH

Game over for Sebastien Loeb.

The nine-time WRC champion came into today's long special with an overall lead of one hour and eight minutes... but disaster was lurking just around the corner.

The Frenchman rolling his Peugeot into the dunes after just 84k.

36" ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB IN FRENCH

"We arrived from over there, and there was a shallow ditch... this is an off-piste section. We were following these tracks, and we couldn't see the ditch from where we were coming. And we're the first car out on the road, obviously. I saw it late, in we went... not very fast, but the front chassis is broken. We're really unlucky, because 4 metres to the side, even 2 metres, and we would have been fine. It's impossible to go on like this. We'll wait for the assistance truck to patch ourselves up and get moving again, but it's going to be a long wait."

3" SHOTS OF LOEB

Don't speak

10" ONBOARD SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106 STOPPING

Teammates Stephane Peterhansel and Jean-Paul Cottret did stop to see if they could lend a hand, but the damage was too substantial.

6" ITW BRUNO FAMIN (PEUGEOT SPORT DIRECTOR) IN FRENCH

"Of course it's not good news, but we're always happy to win a stage."

15" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH

"I'm not the sort of person to celebrate other people's problems. But this is rally raid. Seb and Daniel have fought really well since Moscow, it's such a shame for them to stop like this."

20" ITW STEPHANE PETERHANSEL IN FRENCH

"It must have been a big impact, given the size of the ditch and the damage to the car. Luckily we have these safety systems in place. Our first reaction was to go and check they were both all right, that everything was OK with their necks and shoulders, because it must have been a serious impact."

14" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100

They say that one man's loss is another man's gain, and in this case that man was Cyril Despres.

The defending champion took advantage of Loeb's misfortune to move to the top of the pile...

He now leads by around 45 minutes.

7" SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107 – 4TH (+2'52")

Meanwhile it was a superb day for the Chinese drivers.

The consistently excellent Han Wei is now up to second overall.

6" ITW HAN WEI IN CHINESE

"It was a very bumpy stage, very difficult for the co-drivers. But the team did a fantastic job."

13" SHOTS OF LIU KUN #121 – 3RD (+2'03")

And what about this for a result... Han's teammate Liu Kun, whose is almost 3 hours back in the overall standings, claiming an impressive 3rd place in his buggy...

15" SHOTS OF LU BINGLONG #130 – 2ND (+0'22")

However, the pair in yellow were outdone by fellow countryman Lu Binglong of Baicmotor...

The Chinese team have big ambitions for rally raid, as you'll hear later in the programme.

He was just 22 seconds behind the stage winner...

15" SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106 – 1ST

... that was this man Stephane Peterhansel - a third victory of the Silk Way for Mr Dakar.

An incredibly close stage... only around three minutes separating the winner, Peterhansel, from fifth-placed Despres.

15" STANDINGS CARS STAGE + OVERALL

As you can see, three Chinese drivers in the top five.

In the overall standings, Despres now leads by 44 minutes and 12 seconds from Han.

10" SHOTS OF ZHOU YONG #116

Like Loeb, Zhou Yong also got into trouble today ... fortunately the Chinese driver and co-driver Pascal Maimon were unhurt.

FEATURE BAICMOTOR RACING TEAM (2'58")

1" GRAPHIC

4" DON'T SPEAK

10" ITW JIARUN LI (TEAM DIRECTOR) IN CHINESE

"The full name of our team is the Baicmotor Racing Team, and we're based in Beijing. BAIC is the biggest manufacturer of passenger cars and SUVs in China.

8" DON'T SPEAK

20" ITW JIARUN LI (TEAM DIRECTOR) IN CHINESE

"Last year was the first year that we took part in a rally raid, the Taklimakan Rally. This year we did our second Taklimakan, and now this is our first Silk Way Rally. We're also taking part in the China Rally at the same time."

5" DON'T SPEAK

10" ITW JIARUN LI (TEAM DIRECTOR) IN CHINESE

"Eventually our goal is to go to the Dakar Rally. So our plan is to keep developing and learning over the next three years."

4" DON'T SPEAK

17" ITW JIARUN LI (TEAM DIRECTOR) IN CHINESE

"The most important thing that we have to learn is how to manage the rhythm of this kind of rally raid. On the Taklimakan Rally, for example, we had a lot more rest days. You don't get much of a chance to relax on the Silk Way or the Dakar!"

6" DON'T SPEAK

14" ITW JIARUN LI (TEAM DIRECTOR) IN CHINESE

"I'm very proud of our rally so far. Before the Silk Way, we said that we wanted to learn from the likes of Peugeot and Mini, and now we're battling with them in the overall standings. I'm very satisfied with our results."

8" DON'T SPEAK

18" ITW CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108 IN FRENCH

“That’s the objective, to be the top Chinese team. Han Wei, who is currently 4th, is one of our direct rivals. There is a lot of pride at stake between the Chinese drivers and manufacturers. So we’ll try to get a hold of third place, we’ll give it our all – but I’m sure the other teams will as well!”

10” DON’T SPEAK

34” ITW LU BINGLONG #130 IN CHINESE (SLOW!)

“I’m really proud and delighted to be representing a Chinese team at a major international rally raid like the Silk Way. The level of racing is very high. For the time being, motor sport isn’t hugely popular in China, but it is improving all the time. In the future, we will keep getting better and better. And one day, I’m confident that we will be the best in the world.”

7” DON’T SPEAK

HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS

2” GRAPHIC TRUCKS

8” BEAUTY SHOTS

After a well-earned rest day in Urumqi on Sunday, what better way for the Silk Way Rally drivers to dive back in at the deep end, than with a first taste of the Chinese dunes?

35” SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300 – 1ST

If there is one team that will have been feasting their eyes on this special, it was – you’ve guessed it – Kamaz.

10 tonnes of high-spec Russian engineering powering over the rolling sands, just the way they like it.

For the second time in this Silk Way, they claimed a perfect 1-2-3-4 with their four drivers.

Defending champion Airat Mardeev leading the way.

He took the stage win in 4 hours, 19 minutes and 50 seconds, moving ahead of Tatra’s Martin Kolomy into third overall.

27” SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303 – 2ND (0’36”) + SECOND KAMAZ TRUCK

Current rally leader Dmitry Sotnikov wasn’t far behind... only 36 seconds.

The 2013 champion has been on fire over the past few days... his lead over teammate Anton Shibalov is up to 14 minutes and 27 seconds.

Even if they occasionally lost their way in the sands, the Kamaz simply couldn’t be matched.

14” SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311 – loses third place

Here comes Kolomy then, the best of the rest.

He was fifth on the day, only a couple of minutes behind the four Kamaz ... the Czech happy not to have pushed too hard, with some tough stages on the horizon.

12” ITW MARTIN KOLOMY IN CZECH

"I want to finish the rally, get to Xi'an, so I slowed down and didn't push like Kamaz. I have lots of things to do at home, and two nice children, so I want to go back in one piece!"

22" SHOTS OF ARTUR ARDAVICIUS #310 + GERARD DE ROOY #302

Artur Ardavicius still flying the flag for the Petronas De Rooy team. The Kazakh was 25 minutes down today in seventh, although he's an hour and 44 minutes back in the overall.

Gerard De Rooy himself losing nearly an hour. But the Dutchman, well out of the running overall, will have been more concerned about testing out his new Powerstar in the desert...

27" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Here's Anton Shibalov... he completed the podium today, about five minutes off the pace.

Martin Kolomy is still up there but it looks set to be a real battle between the Kamaz in the coming days.

15" TRUCK STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

Here they are again, in 1-2-3-4: Mardeev, Sotnikov, Shibalov and Eduard Nikolaev. Kolomy and Siarhei Viazovich making up the top six.

In the overall, just over half an hour separating Sotnikov from Kolomy.

POSTCARD HAMI (0'45")

Welcome to the cotton fields of Hami...

Also known as Kumul, the city is situated in the region of Xinjiang, not far from the Mongolian border.

A rich source of raw materials and minerals, it is perhaps best known for its melons, which are renowned for their sweet and crisp taste.

More than 100 forms of the Hami melon, or snow melon, are grown and cultivated throughout China.

But there's more to Hami than just fruit ... Founded over 2000 years ago, it is now a bustling metropolis of over half a million people.

TOMORROW (0'51")

19" ITW LUC ALPHAND IN ENGLISH + MAP OF STAGE 10

"This tenth stage between Hami and Dunhuang is a transitional stage, after some hard sand the day before. But it's a high-speed stage, with – again – more than 360 kilometres and with the heat outside, so it's still difficult, especially with some tough navigation at the end."

15" SHOTS OF BIVOUAC BAR + CAR WASH

A little bit of downtime required after another action-packed day on the Silk Way Rally...

Join us again tomorrow for Stage 10.

4" ITW JIARUN LI IN CHINESE

"Thanks for watching, see you in Dunhuang!"

13" END CREDITS

END OF PROGRAMME