

A tough day for PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO in Stage 8 of Dakar Rally 2020

Flat tyres, mechanical issues and big, soft dunes made for a hard day that ended with a loss of precious time for the team's drivers

Wadi Al-Dawasir, January 13th, 2020

The 8th stage of the Dakar Rally presented a big challenge for the crews and the PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO suffered some setbacks that produced significant loss of time for the drivers.

Janus van Kasteren started the stage in good form, but two flat tyres, one at the beginning and the other one at the end, cost him time. The biggest obstacle was a very soft dune where he got stuck, but with Van de Laar's help he was able to resume racing. Van Kasteren positioned his #505 truck in 16th place, 51m02s behind leader Karginov. It is a setback for his objective of getting into the Top 5 of the overall classification, as he remains in 7th position, almost an hour away from fifth-placed Sotnikov.

Michiel Becx had a good run in Stage 8, which was the second loop of the race with beginning and end in Wadi Al-Dawasir. The Dutchman from PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO finished 18th, getting his fourth Top 20 result in a row, and he climbs one place to 16th in the general standings.

Albert Llovera also had a hard time on the tough roads of Saudi Arabia, with level 1 and 2 dunes of very soft sand that can be very treacherous for the drivers. The Andorran closed his day in 22nd place and gained a position, climbing to 13th overall, but he is almost three hours behind the Top 10 positions.

Vick Versteijnen suffered a broken suspension that left him without four-wheel drive in the dunes, costing him more than five hours. Although this PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO crew is out of the general classification, it has achieved two Top 10 arrivals in the last three stages.

Tomorrow, the Dakar caravan will continue on its way in a northeasterly direction to the city of Haradh, where 415 timed kilometers will take the crews one day closer to the finish line. The main factor in this stage will be driving precision, with mainly hard grounds all along the way.

STAGE 8 RESULTS

1. Andrey Karginov (Kamaz)	4h24m58s
2. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz)	+ 5m54s
3. Ales Loprais (Praga)	+ 9m06s
4. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz)	+ 10m41s
5. Eduard Nikolaev (Kamaz)	+ 14m44s

16. JANUS VAN KASTEREN (IVECO)	+ 51m02s
18. MICHIEL BECX (IVECO)	+ 54m35s
22. ALBERT LLOVERA (IVECO)	+ 1h43m53s
30. VICK VERSTEIJNEN (IVECO)	+ 5h22m48s

OVERALL STANDINGS

1. Andrey Karginov (Kamaz)	34h41m43s
2. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz)	+ 27m06s
3. Siarhei Viazovich (Maz)	+ 1h05m17s
4. Ales Loprais (Praga)	+ 2h04m27s
5. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz)	+ 2h39m22s

7. JANUS VAN KASTEREN (IVECO)	+ 3h33m02s
13. ALBERT LLOVERA (IVECO)	+ 7h36m50s
16. MICHIEL BECX (IVECO)	+ 11h27m17s
--- VICK VERSTEIJNEN (IVECO)	

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