

PHOTO ALERT: Peterhansel boosts bid for record 14th Dakar Rally win



Frenchman extends car lead while Price is forced to retire from bike race.

Stéphane Peterhansel extended his car lead to over 17 minutes in Saudi Arabia but two-time bike champion Toby Price is out of the running after crashing in the first half of Stage 9.

Here is all you need to know:

- Peterhansel boosted his bid for a record 14th Dakar Rally victory on the 465km loop stage around the Neom bivouac, after he put a further 12 minutes into his main rival Nasser Al-Attiyah.
- The Frenchman, who first contested the Dakar in 1988 on a Yamaha motorbike, used his guile to maintain his focus at high speed to put clear distance over three-time car winner Al-Attiyah with three stages left to race after a trio of flat tyres hampered the Qatari's progress.
- 2009 champion Giniel De Villiers finished third on the day with Frenchman Cyril Despres seventh, reigning king Carlos Sainz 10th and Pole Jakub Przygoński 15th.
- Peterhansel, 55, said: "It was always going to be a long day, so we decided in the morning that we would not go full attack. We wanted to manage the tyres and be clean with the navigation. We overtook Carlos and Nasser. It was more a question of strategy than speed. My co-driver Edouard (Boulanger) did a great job."
- Despres, 46, added: "It was a tough day. 465km full of rocks and full of riverbeds. It was an amazing landscape. We

had one bad puncture a few kilometres from the finish, but we came through it."

- In the bikes, Australian rider Price crashed 155km into the stage, leaving him out of the race.

- Fellow Red Bull KTM Factory Racing biker Sunderland stayed with his teammate for 15 minutes before Price was airlifted to hospital. He then suffered a crash himself later on in which he broke his roadbook and was unable to navigate properly. He finished fourth on the day.

- Sunderland remains third overall - 14m34s behind Chilean leader Jose Ignacio Cornejo Florimo.

- Sunderland, 31, said: "I saw my buddy Toby laid up in a river bed with (Ricky) Brabec already stopped with him. I went over there to help let out the air of the airbag. After that I tried to get my head down and concentrate on the roadbook then, after about 100km more, I hit a rock. I went over the handlebars quite fast and had quite a big impact. Unfortunately I broke the roadbook and all of the GPS, then I had to follow the dust of other guys for the rest of the day which was quite scary."

- Taking the Lightweight Vehicles win and regaining the overall lead of the category was Chilean Chaleco López, however Dakar's youngest ever stage winner - rookie Seth Quintero - saw his podium hopes go up in smoke as his OT3 came to a standstill.

- Quintero's fellow Red Bull Off-Road Junior Team driver Cristina Gutiérrez of Spain impressed on her return to the rally after reentering under Dakar Experience rules as did Swedish debutant Mattias Ekström.

- There is a 45-minute advantage at the front of the truck race for Russian Dmitry Sotnikov with the rally going great for Team Kamaz Master, who occupy all three podium spots in the general classification.

- Deputy team leader and multiple Dakar champion Eduard Nikolaev explained: "We are happy that everyone returned to the bivouac with a good result."

- Wednesday brings the Dakar convoy to Al Ula via a 342km timed special stage across a beautiful landscape.

Overall standings after Stage Nine

Car

1. Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA) X-Raid Mini 34h26m16s
2. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) Toyota Gazoo +00h17m50s
3. Carlos Sainz (ESP) X-Raid Mini +01h02m25s

Bike

1. Jose Ignacio Cornejo Florimo (CHL) Honda 36h51m00s
2. Kevin Benavides (ARG) Honda +00h11m24s
3. Sam Sunderland (GBR) Red Bull KTM +00h14m34s

Truck

1. Dmitry Sotnikov (RUS) Kamaz Master 37h42m49s
2. Anton Shibalov (RUS) Kamaz Master +00h45m03s
3. Ayrat Mardeev (RUS) Kamaz Master +01h13m05s

Lightweight vehicle

1. F Lopez (CHL) Can-Am 42h05m20s
2. Austin Jones (USA) Can-Am +00h12m25s
3. Aron Domzala (POL) Can-Am +00h38m03s

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