**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 23 April 2022**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 12**

**Special stage: SS11, Platak 1 Distance: 15.85 km**

**Weather: Rain and thick fog, 10 degrees**

**Road conditions: Slippery, standing water, mud/gravel on road in places**

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**Car #4. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM**

Runs two wet-weather tyres and two soft compounds – and has a half-spin just seconds into the stage at first corner. Logs a time of 10m24.3s. “You cannot commit at all – the first corner showed me that already! There is so much water on the road and you are aquaplaning so many times. After the spin I was really slow.”

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS**

No spin, but still 17.7s slower than Lappi. “It was very, very, very difficult. Impossible to see even 10 metres in front, so I took it easy!”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/JONAS ANDERSSON**

Comes in 13.4s down on Lappi. “If I could see anything, I might be able to use some grip! It’s dangerous there. If it clears up, it’ll be a lovely stage this afternoon!”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/AARON JOHNSTON**

A minute off the pace. Extreme caution. “My target is just to bring the car back, so it’s okay.”

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN**

Just 0.7s off Lappi. “There’s no satisfaction, that’s for sure. There was no grip on the narrow and visibility was also zero. It’s very difficult.”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE**

Slides off to the right into undergrowth at a left-hander, bounces straight back on to road. Visibility very poor. Still 7.8s faster than Lappi. “I couldn’t get the temperature in the tyres at the beginning, but I guess it was the same for everybody. I tried to keep my rhythm but on a couple of corners it was close!”

**Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE**

Just 0.6s slower than Neuville. “I’m happy just to get to the end of that. They were the worst conditions I’ve seen in my life and I could see absolutely nothing. I enjoyed it though.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

More commitment on full wet tyres. Comes in 18.6s faster than Neuville. “In these conditions you don’t care about the time, you are just happy to get through. The visibility is just to the bonnet, so it’s tough.”

**Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN**

Rain is heavier, Rovanperä picks up a front-left puncture, reducing his lead from 1m12s to just 18.2s over Tänak. “I don’t know. It was in the beginning on the small road – we didn’t
really feel anything.”

**Car #21. YOHAN ROSSEL/VALENTIN SARREAUD**

No comments available.

**Car #23. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

No comments available.

**Car #22. ERIC CAMILLI/THIBAUT DE LA HAYE**

No comments available.

**Car #24. KAJETAN KAJETANOWICZ/MACIEJ SZCZEPANIAK**

No comments available.

**Car #26. EMIL LINDHOLM/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN**

No comments available.

**COMMENTS**

Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen pick up a left-front puncture early in stage which reduces their lead from well over a minute to just 18.2s, as Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja used full-wet Pirelli tyre advantage to take a clear stage win. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe, on a mix of wets and soft tyres, are second fastest despite slight off in very difficult conditions. Craig Breen/Paul Nagle just 0.6s slower than team-mates, with first runners on the road Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm fourth despite a half-spin seconds after the start.

**ENDS**

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