Orange Farm NEWS

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HALALA: Capitec Eyethu Mall first to go live with smart ID services in partnership with DHA

Residents of Orange Farm can now access certain Home Affairs services closer to home following the launch of a new digital partnership between the Department of Home Affairs and South Africa's banking sector.

The Capitec branch at Eyethu Mall in Orange Farm is among the first bank branches in the country to go live under the new system, allowing qualifying residents to apply for Smart ID services directly at the bank.

Home Affairs says the new digital partnership aims to reduce long queues and bring government services closer to communities by using bank branches as secure service points.

According to the department, the system allows clients to complete Smart ID applications in five to ten minutes, without filling out paperwork or making advance bookings.

In the first phase of the rollout, South Africans who still have the green ID book can apply to convert it to the Smart ID card, while existing Smart ID holders can apply for replacements.

Home Affairs Minister Dr Leon Schreiber said the reform marks a major step in modernising public services and improving access for citizens.

"Instead of forcing people to go to Home Affairs to endure long queues and manual processes, we are using technological security and efficiency to bring Home Affairs to the people," he said.

The department says about 16 million South Africans still rely on the green ID book, which is more vulnerable to fraud, making the transition to Smart ID cards an important priority.

More services are expected to be introduced as the system expands during 2026, including first-time Smart ID applications, passport services and additional bank branches joining the programme.

For residents of Orange Farm and surrounding areas, the service at Capitec Eyethu Mall could mean less travelling and quicker access to key Home Affairs services within their own community.

Qualifying clients can now begin the Smart ID application process with passport services coming soon

Palm Springs' cultural ambassador showcases Zulu maidens culture at Lesotho Expo

Director of Noble Virgins, Lisa Simelane represented South African Zulu cultural maidens at the Africa Culture and Trade Expo 2026 in Teya-Teyaneng on 25 February.

The expo brought together delegates, international media, and cultural performers to promote African heritage, cultural exchange, and trade cooperation across the continent. Simelane attended the event carrying the responsibility of representing virgin testers in South Africa, emphasizing the importance of cultural values, youth development, and heritage preservation.

Simelane told OFN "I am proud to represent young women and promote cultural dignity, unity, and empowerment through this platform."

Lisa Simelane celebrates Zulu maidens' African traditional dress and cultural expression

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Orange Farm NEWS

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Health drive offers free STI screening in Ext 9

Health workers in action: distributing condoms, guiding and supporting community members with smile

Clean Touch Administrative Services recently held a STI screening and condom distribution drive at the Orange Farm Ext 9 Phase 3 stop sign, opposite Palm Springs Mall.

Residents accessed free HIV testing and counselling, TB and STI screening, vital checks, mental health support and health education during outreach programme where condoms were also distributed as part of efforts to strengthen prevention and reduce health risks.

The initiative formed part of broader community-based interventions aimed at improving access to primary healthcare and encouraging responsible choices.

One of the organisers, Xolisile Nxumalo, thanked supporting partners for their contribution to the event's success.

She said: "This programme would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners. We sincerely thank Old Mutual, Nacosa, the Ext 7 Team, Masechaba Organisation, Jozihlomile, Khomani Men's Forum, SANCA, Isiqusomama Organisation from Tjovitjo and Orange Farm News Paper for standing with us to make a real difference in our community."

Sanda Maps Accessories donates to Lakeside's community of disability

Charity drive for those in need by local volunteers

Sisanda Maphalala, founder of Sanda_Maps Accessories, led a successful charity outreach initiative in Lakeside, supporting people living with disabilities.

The outreach formed part of Maphalala's mission to promote confidence, wellness, and community empowerment through beauty and social development projects. The small business, which sells hair accessories and bags, also supports youth development by sponsoring pageants, including initiatives linked to Khanyisile Tshabalala. The community drive aimed to bring hope and smiles to families of people with disabilities. The project received unexpected donations of clothing from residents across Evaton West Ext 4, Orange Farm, Sebokeng, and Vanderbijlpark.

Maphalala expressed gratitude to donors and supporters who contributed to the success of the drive. "We thank everyone who supported this initiative. The donations were overwhelming and showed the true spirit of community kindness," said Maphalala. She also acknowledged her business partner and friend, Engie Mhlambi, for encouragement and support throughout the project.

TCM Arts and Culture's models shine at Miss Valentine 2026 pageant

Contestants lineup with their certificates after impressing the judges and the audience

The TCM ART'S AND CULTURE Organisation made a strong impression at the recently-held Miss Valentine 2026 modeling competition at Thandu'kwazi Secondary School in Sedibeng West.

The event was organised by Yokos Media Production in partnership with Black Royalty Media. TCM's models delivered a confident and elegant catwalk performance, impressing judges and the audience with their poise, coordination, and stage presence.

The TCM Dance Crew energised the crowd with high-energy choreography marked by precision and creativity.

Live performances from De Rose, Frank Mabeat, and Kick Game Pro added musical entertainment to the event. The appearance of TCM founder Tshepo Chad Motingoe was a highlight of the day.

"We are committed to creating platforms where young people can express their talent, build confidence, and grow within the creative arts space," Motingoe said.

Tensions erupt after police vehicle hits community member

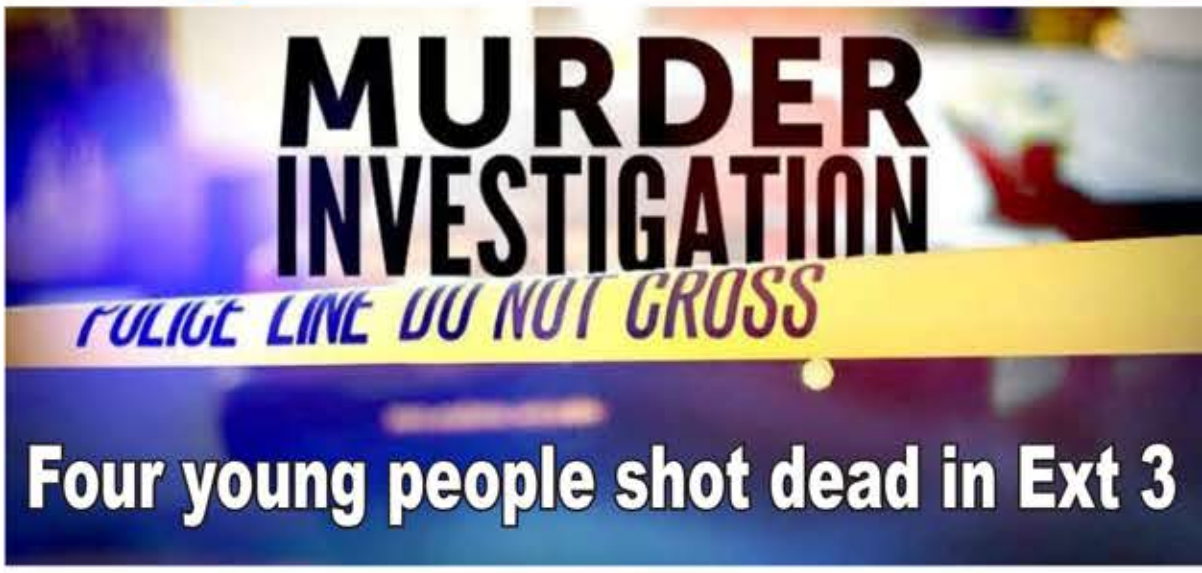
Authorities work to calm rising tension after confrantation during a crime prevention operation

Police have opened cases of reckless and negligent driving and assault on a police officer following an incident in Orange Farm where a police vehicle allegedly struck a community member during a chase.

According to SAPS statement, the incident occurred at a sports ground on Wednesday, 4 March, at about 11am while officers from the South African Police Service (SAPS) were conducting a crime prevention operation. Police said a police official allegedly hit a 22-year-old community member with a state vehicle while pursuing a suspect. The situation escalated when community members gathered at the scene and allegedly assaulted the police officer who was driving the vehicle. Back-up units, including Public Order Police, were called to the area to restore calm.

"The police official was removed from the scene and taken to the police station while the 22-year-old was taken to hospital for medical attention," said SAPS spokesperson Brigadier Brenda Muridili. Public order was later restored and about 100 community members were dispersed.

Police confirmed that investigations into the incident are ongoing.



Four young people shot dead in Ext 3

Four young people were murdered in a shooting inside a parked vehicle in Orange Farm on Sunday night.

The victims were fatally shot by unknown suspects at about 8pm in Ext 3. Emergency services and members of the South African Police Service responded to the scene after receiving reports of the incident.

The four victims were found inside the vehicle with gunshot wounds. Their identities were later confirmed by family members. The motive for the attack is still unknown and no arrests have been made. Police have opened a case docket for four counts of murder and are continuing investigations. Community members with information are urged to assist. "Anyone with information that can help us arrest the suspects is urged to come forward," said Sgt Motsapi.

Information can be shared anonymously via the MySAPS mobile app, the Crime Stop line at 08600 10111, or Orange Farm SAPS on 071 675 7234 or (011) 213 8023/9025/8026.

Murdered man found near Tjovitjo

A body of a murdered male was discovered in an open veld near the Tjovitjo informal settlement in Orange Farm on 5 March.

Orange Farms SAPS spokesperson, Sgt Shaan Motsapi, told OFN that police were summoned to the scene after the body was found with multiple injuries. The deceased was later identified by family members. The motive for the killing remains unknown and no arrests have been made. Anyone with information that can assist in arresting the suspect or suspects is urged to come forward.

Tips can be shared anonymously via the MySAPS mobile app, the Crime Stop line at 08600 10111, or Orange Farm SAPS on 071 675 7234 or (011) 213 8023/8025/8026.

JMPD recovers hijacked truck in Finetown

The recovered freight truck parked on the roadside after being located by authorities

This vehicle was successfully recovered by the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) at the intersection of R553 and Broad Road in Finetown.

In a statement, JMPD said the truck was hijacked in Orange Farm, acting swiftly on information received they traced the vehicle to Finetown, where it was found abandoned.

The recovered truck was later booked in at the Lenasia SAPS pound for further investigation and processing.

Authorities have not yet confirmed whether any suspects have been arrested in connection with the hijacking.

Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies as efforts continue to combat vehicle-related crimes in the area.

Protesters engaging with Orange Farm SAPS

Mokokotlong residents block Golden Highway in service delivery protest

Residents from the Mokokotlong informal settlement in Orange Farm staged an early morning service delivery protest on Wednesday, 9 March, blocking parts of the Golden Highway near the Welgevonden Road intersection.

The protest began at approximately 4:30am when community members gathered and blocked the road to voice concerns about ongoing service delivery challenges in the area. Residents say they are frustrated by poor road conditions and electricity-related issues that have remained unresolved.

An estimated 200 residents participated in the protest, causing temporary traffic disruptions along the busy route linking Orange Farm and surrounding areas.

Public Order Police were deployed to monitor the situation and ensure the gathering remained peaceful. Traffic was diverted away from the protest area to prevent confrontation and ensure the safety of both motorists and protesters. Corporate Communications Officer for Orange Farms SAPS, Sgt Shaan Jason Motsapi, told OFN: "Public Order Police were deployed to the protest to monitor the situation. Approximately 200 community members participated in the gathering.

Traffic was diverted to avoid confrontation and relevant stakeholders were present to address the matter." The protest concluded without any incidents, Motsapi added: "No incidents were reported and the protesters dispersed peacefully."

Residents hope their concerns around road infrastructure and electricity access will receive urgent attention from the relevant authorities.

Husband arrested for wife's murder in Meyerton

Police and community near the recovery scene as investigators continue their work

A 38-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the murder of his wife after her body was discovered in a stream last week.

According to SAPS, the woman was reported missing on 3 March following allegations that her husband had stabbed her and locked her inside their home. When police arrived at the house, both the husband and wife were missing.

A search operation was launched and on 5 March the husband was located in Vereeniging with the assistance of the Community Police Forum (CPF). During questioning, the suspect allegedly led police to a nearby stream where the victim's body was discovered inside a recycling bag, he was subsequently arrested and charged with murder.

The suspect is appeared before the Vereeniging Magistrates' Court on 9 March.

Police spokesperson Colonel Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi said community cooperation played an important role in the arrest.

"The management of the South African Police Service in Gauteng would like to thank the community for their assistance in apprehending the suspect.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide affects everyone and it requires all of us to stand together and denounce it in our communities," said Nevhuhulwi.

Police have urged residents to report criminal activities by calling the Crime Stop Hotline on 08600 10111 or by submitting anonymous tip-offs through the MySAPS App, which can be downloaded on any smartphone.

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STREET TALK

Special feature by Mpho Motaung

Sisekho Mtyalela
"There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."

Aliyah Masiteng
"We celebrate Human Rights Day as a reminder that dignity, equality and justice are fundamental to all people. For our generation, human rights are more than just words - they are the foundation of a fair and thriving society. They protect our freedom to express ourselves, access education and live without fear of discrimination. Let us stand together for a world where everyone's rights are respected and protected. Happy Human Rights Day."

Hlangene Motloung
"It's exhausting sometimes, trying to survive in a world where your rights exist on paper but not in reality. Freedom, equality, education, safety - these are basic things every person deserves.
Talking about human rights reminds us that we are not powerless, that we can demand fairness, and that our voices can make a difference. It's up to us to act, to protect each other, and to ensure the next generation has better opportunities."

Thando Vilakazi
"I am proud that we can speak about our rights openly, but I also feel frustrated. It's painful to see communities struggle because their basic rights are ignored. Health care, safety, education, jobs - these are not luxuries, they are human rights. And when people don't have access to them, it impacts their dignity, their confidence, and their ability to live a full life."

Lelonhle Zwane
"Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that everyone deserves. In South Africa, we have the Bill of Rights in our Constitution, which caters for our needs. We are grateful to be a generation that is able to express itself freely, and we honour the heroes who fought for us to be heard and protected by the government. As we celebrate Human Rights Day, may we remember our heroes and recognise that every right comes with a responsibility, so that we can set a good example for the coming generation."

Fakazile Maseko
"We often forget that rights come with responsibility. Freedom doesn't mean doing whatever you want - it means respecting others while claiming your own space in society. Human Rights Day should remind us that we are part of a bigger picture, that the way we treat each other matters, and that every action we take can either strengthen or weaken our communities."

Andile Ngamone
"When you grow up seeing people around you lose their jobs or opportunities, it makes it hard to believe in the future. Human rights are supposed to give us hope, but when the youth cannot access education or proper work, it feels like the system is failing us. We need our rights to be protected and respected, not just in speeches or ceremonies, but in real life, every day."

Sam Mokoena
"Well, it is a privilege to have a street talk about our freedom of expression. Life nowadays is no longer like it honestly used to be over the past 10 years - it is no longer the same. Our rights are no longer adhered to. Our youth unemployment rate has now become a major topic. We are facing many local challenges. It is not healthy for our minds to constantly try to figure out life's challenges without jobs. It is really a turn-off. Our rights matter. We are getting frustrated with this ignorance of our rights. It is hurting - I will not lie."

Luthando Zulu
"Human rights are more than words in the Constitution; they are meant to protect our lives, our freedom, and our chance to grow. But we must also fight for them every day."

Nonceba Motloung
"Human rights are important because they remind us that every person deserves dignity, respect and equal treatment. Without rights, many people would not have the freedom to speak, learn or live without fear."

Lesedi Mntambo
"As we celebrate Human Rights Day, we must also reflect on the challenges many communities still face and work together to improve the lives of our people."

Dieketseng Motloung
"Human Rights Day should encourage us to build a society where discrimination and injustice are no longer tolerated."

Fury Rampage releases new single "Star"

Image: Fury Rampage

Nhlanhla Ndlovu, popularly known by his stage name Fury Rampage from Orange Farm, dropped his song titled "Star"on 5 February, marking another step in his growing music career.

The track focuses on ambition, perseverance and self-belief, reflecting the journey of chasing dreams despite the challenges many people face. Through "Star" he hopes to inspire young people and aspiring artists to stay focused on their goals.

According to Fury Rampage, the song was inspired by the belief that every person carries a unique light and potential. "I want people to remember that no matter where they come from,they can still shine and achieve their dreams,'he said. The single encourages listeners to recognise their worth and keep moving despite criticism, obstacles and uncertainty .

Fans can follow Fury Rampage on social media via Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, or contact him through email at Furyrampage27@gmail.com

Ext 2's Still Fever drops new song "Change Not"

Image: Still Fever

Rising hip-hop artist Still Fever has released his latest song, "Change Not" a powerful track that encourages young people to stay true to themselves despite outside pressure.

The song, which is available on his YouTube channel Still Fever Creations, carries a strong message about identity, resilience and self-belief, He said: "The song is about not changing who you are because of society or what people expect from you," said Still Fever. "It's about staying real and believing in your journey." Born and raised in Orange Farm Ext 2, Still Fever has been building his music career from a young age. Inspired by hip-hop culture and the realities of township life, he began writing lyrics before expanding his creative skills into music production, videography and photography.

By producing both the sound and visuals of his work, the artist has developed a distinctive creative identity while remaining fully independent. His music blends African hip-hop influences with modern sounds, delivering energetic flows, catchy hooks and meaningful lyrics often focusing on themes such as ambition, love, dreams and the daily hustle faced by many young people trying to build a better future. His talent has already attracted national television recognition with three of his music videos playlisted on Channel O, including the track "Mam Mofokeng," which appeared on the popular Hit List playlist, helping introduce his music to audiences across Africa.

In his journey in the music industry, Still Fever has also collaborated with artists and creatives such as Blessed Josef, Tyson and Romeo, and worked with Blackout Music and Zuko SA, a respected artist associated with the Metro FM Music Awards. Beyond music, Still Fever continues to build his creative brand through Still Fever Creations, where he releases music videos and visual projects showcasing both his filmmaking and production skills. Despite growing recognition, he remains deeply connected to his hometown, he said: "I represent Orange Farm in everything I do. There is so much talent here, and I want to show that artists from our township can also achieve big dreams."

Young Masta Blasta drops "Risky" and mixtapes

Image: Young Masta Blasta

Yung Masta Blasta (DJ) real name is Sandile Zweni (31), making is waves in the local music scene while representing Orange Farm This year he released a single titled " Risky' and two mixtapes,"Being broke is not a career" and "I've been winning."

The local DJ began his journey in 2010 and has been building his name through guest mixes, live performances and music releases Blasta says his love for music started with collecting songs before growing into DJying over the years he developed the style that blends Hip-hop, House and dance music.

His profile has opened doors on radio as guest DJ mix on Alex FM and the Cell C year End Party. He is currently working on his debut EP, My reflection, which he says reflects on his journey in music. "Watch the space. Something big is coming,"he said. Follow Yung Masta Blasta: TikTok: @ yblasta15197 Instagram: @yblasta15197 Facebook: Yung Masta (Blasta)

Orange Farm hosts Joburg 4th Safe Cycling Awareness Ride

Joburg continues to encourage cycling as a healthy and cheaper mode of transport as part of a strategy to decongest traffic, promote behavioural change

The City of Johannesburg's Transport Department will hosting its fourth Safe Cycling Awareness ride on 22 March in Orange Farm to promote cycling safety on the City's roads.

Once again, the city will partner with Pedal Power, AA, Ithuba Cycle Development, Jagga Cycle and the Road Accident Fund to support and create safe cycling awareness for motorists and cyclists.

The ride will start from Reamohetsoe Primary School in Ward 4 at 7am with cyclists riding for 27.8km along several routes ending at 2pm at the school. The ride aims to highlight the importance of both cyclists and motorists being able to share the road safely, cyclists' vulnerability to accidents, instilling good riding behavior and obeying the rules of the road as they travel past community landmarks-shopping mall, clinic, schools and multipurpose centers.

This initiative has become a social event connecting communities, promoting bicycles as a form of transport, promoting the use of cycle lanes and empowering local economic development.

Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero says, "The previous three Awareness Rides were very successful, and we continue to encourage cycling as a healthy and cheaper mode of transport as part of a strategy to decongest traffic, promote behavioural change and contribute towards the reduction of air pollution".

There will be water points at the 10km and 20km, backup vehicles, emergency services and JMPD will be on standby and visible throughout the route.

Security will be provided for vehicles parked at the venue.

Individuals and cycling teams are encouraged to participate but as per Cycling South Africa rules no under twelve riders can participate while riding without a helmet is prohibited.

The MMC for Transport, Cllr Kenny Kunene cautioned that, "Recently, the City of Johannesburg has witnessed tragic incidents in which four cyclists lost their lives due to negligent driving. We urge motorists to be more attentive and considerate toward all road users, particularly vulnerable groups such as pedestrians and cyclists.

Drivers should avoid using cell phones while driving, as this distraction takes their attention away from the road and increases the risk of accidents.

In addition, the use of intoxicating substances such as alcohol and drugs significantly contributes to road crashes and fatalities. Cyclists and pedestrians have every right to use the roadway and should be treated with care and respect by motorists".

Free online registration is open - https://forms.gle/pYU6m4Q9TqBFP24N9

Support this Netball Club to help grow local talent

Lintony Netball Club seeks sponsorship

Lintony Netball Club in Orange Farm Ext 6a appeals for sponsorship to support the team's development and participation in higher-level netball competitions.

The club seeks financial or in-kind support to help advance training, tournament participation and long-term player development. Sponsorship would also be acknowledged on team jerseys, social media platforms and match programmes. The team explained that it has enjoyed success in local tournaments and aims to represent the community in national competitions. Members described the club as a platform for promoting netball talent and youth sporting opportunities in the area.

Speaking on behalf of the team, Masibulele Myeki said sponsorship would strengthen the club's growth and competitive edge. "Support will help us improve our performance and showcase talent from our community," Myeki said. The club urged businesses and individuals interested in supporting the team to come forward and partner in promoting netball development in the region.

Youth Tournament ends on high note as teams receive awards

Ambitiouz U13s celebrate after emerging as champions in the competition

The annual youth soccer tournament reached an exciting finish on 7 March at Qoqa Grounds where Ambitiouz FC, Action Sport and United Future Stars were crowned champions in their respective divisions.

The winning teams were awarded trophies, medal and soccer balls in recognition of their performance throughout the tournament.

In the U13 final, Ambitiouz FC defeated Dube FC 2-0 to lift the trophy after a strong run throughout the tournament.

The U11 final delivered drama as Action Sports edged Dube FC 5-4 on penalties after a tightly contested match.

Meanwhile, in the U15 division United Stars claimed the titled after defeating Palm Springs FC 4-2 in the final.

Tournament organiser, Themba Sibiya, a manager of Ambitiouz FC praised the young players for their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

"The tournament was a great success and it showed that the talent we have in our community. We are proud of all the teams that participated and we hope this platform will continue to develop young footballers in Orange Farm," he said.

The tournament, which brought together youth teams from across Orange Farm, showcased young football talent and provided an important platform for grassroots development in the community.

Organisers praised the players, coaches, supporter and the community as a whole for contributing to a successful event and promoting youth sport in the area.

Covid 19 FC clinches Super 16 title

The team maintained its dominance, shutting out Finetown Monaco 2-0 to seal the title without conceding a goal in the last two rounds

The Born Again Super 16 Tournament ended in dramatic fashion on 22 February at Stende Grounds, Ext 6a, with Covid 19 fc crowned champions after a commanding 2-0 victory over Finetown Monaco.

The champions walked away with R35 000 and a sheep. The weekend's knockout stages delivered tense encounters and nerve-wracking penalty shootouts. Saturday's 21 February quarter-finals opened with 680 FC falling 1-0 to Covid 19. Born Again FC and Isicathulo played to a goalless draw before Isicathulo advanced 6-5 on penalties. McDonald's and Foster FC shared a 1-1 draw, with McDonald's edging through 5-4 in the shootout. Izingwenya and Finetown Monaco also finished 0-0, as Monaco progressed 4-3 on penalties. In Sunday's semi-finals, Covid 19 proved their title credentials with a 2-0 win over McDonald's. Finetown Monaco secured their spot in the final after edging Isicathulo 1-0. The final saw Covid 19 maintain their dominance, shutting out Finetown Monaco 2-0 to seal the title without conceding a goal in the last two rounds.

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