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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Rishi Sunak to become the next UK prime minister after months of turbulence

LONDON, Oct 24 (Reuters) - Rishi Sunak will become Britain's youngest prime minister in modern times after he won the race to lead the Conservative Party, tasked with steering a deeply divided country through an economic downturn set to leave millions of people poorer.

One of the wealthiest politicians in Westminster, Sunak, 42, will become the country's first leader of colour - and its third prime minister in less than two months - as he takes over during one of the most turbulent eras in British political history.

He replaces Liz Truss, who only lasted 44 days before she resigned, needing to restore stability to a country reeling from years of political and economic turmoil, and seeking to lead a party that has fractured along ideological lines.

He told his lawmakers in parliament on Monday that they faced an "existential crisis" and must "unite or die". He told the country it faced a "profound economic challenge".

Economic stability first priority, UK's Sunak tells lawmakers  
Factbox: What is Rishi Sunak's solution to Britain's problems?  
"We now need stability and unity, and I will make it my utmost priority to bring our party and our country together," he said.



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- The Honorable Wea H. Lee, ITC, Founder
- The Honorable Gezahegn Kebede, ITC, President
- Lee Cook, Founder, Phonoscope Excellence in Business Award
- Elaine Chao, Former 18th United States secretary of transportation, First Asian American woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet, Zenith Award
- Bibi Hilton, Publisher, Im a Guest Here Global Impact Award

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The multi-millionaire former hedge fund boss will be expected to launch deep spending cuts to try to rebuild Britain's fiscal reputation, just as the country slides into one of the toughest downturns in decades, hit by the surging cost of energy and food.

A recent mini budget by Truss, which triggered her downfall, pushed up borrowing costs and mortgage rates, and sent investors fleeing. British government bonds rallied aggressively in the run-up to Sunak's victory, and extended their gains on Monday. Sunak, likely to be appointed prime minister by King Charles on Tuesday or Wednesday, will also have to work hard to hold Britain's dominant political party together after some accused him of treachery earlier this year when he resigned from the cabinet of former leader Boris Johnson, triggering his downfall too.

Other Conservatives say he is too rich to understand the day-to-day economic pressures building in Britain, and worry whether he could ever win an election for a party that has been in power for 12 years.

"I think this decision sinks us as a party for the next election," one Conservative lawmaker told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

PERMA-CRISIS  
Britain has been locked in a state of perma-crisis ever since it voted in 2016 to leave the European Union, unleashing a battle at Westminster over the future of the country that remains unresolved to this day.

Johnson, the face of the Brexit vote, led his party to a landslide victory in 2019, only to be driven out of office less than three years later after a series of scandals. His successor Truss lasted just over six weeks before she too was forced out.

Historian and political biographer Anthony Seldon told Reuters that Sunak had the most difficult economic and political inheritance of any British leader since World War Two, and would be constrained by the mistakes made by his predecessor Truss. "There is no leeway on him being anything other than extraordinarily conservative and cautious," he said.

He added that Sunak had shown composure when he became finance minister just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Britain.

Amid the turmoil, polls show that Britons want an election. The Conservatives do not have to hold one until January 2025.

Angela Rayner, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the Conservatives had "crowned Rishi Sunak as prime minister without him saying a single word about how he would run the country and without anyone having the chance to vote."

Labour has held record leads in opinion polls of more than 25 points ever since Truss's budget sent shockwaves through financial markets.



## 美南電視 15.3

每周一至五每晚7點專題節目

每晚7點播出  
專題節目

每天一至五下午6:30播出《美南新聞聯播》

- 每周一晚7點：主持人：黃梅子，《生活》節目（《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出）
- 每周二晚7點：主持人：陳鐵梅，《美南時事通》
- 每周三晚7點，主持人：王潔，《美南時事通》、《美南名人堂》
- 每周四晚7點，主持人：Sky，《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》
- 每周五晚7點，主持人：蓋軍，《美南時事通》

美南網Scdaily.com和youtube 頻道Stv15.3 Houston同步收看直播



主持人: 黃梅子

主持人: 陳鐵梅

主持人: 王潔

主持人: 馬健

主持人: Sky

主持人: 蓋軍

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/24/2022

## We Walked Across The Rice University Campus



lead the one-hundred-and-seven-year-old university to the next bigger goal.

President DesRoches introduced a new blueprint for the next five years for the school. In his touching speech, he thanked his family, especially his parents who came from a poor part of Haiti and still let him come to America, and who have now spent many better years and allowed him to become the president of a world-class university.

With the accompaniment of Rice University music students, representatives came from one hundred universities to praise the new president who will inevitably continue to make Rice shine internationally.

In its almost one hundred and seven years' history, Rice has trained more than 60,000 students from all over the world. At the present time, the university has 9,500 students with 3,000 faculty members.

With an invitation from the Board of Trustees, we attended the Investiture Ceremony of President Reginald DesRoches of Rice University last Saturday morning.

Thousands of school staff and guests gathered to cheer for the new president with so much joy.

Board Chair Robert Ladd said he hoped the new president will

present time, the university has 9,500 students with 3,000 faculty members.

After the ceremony, we enjoyed a very nice lunch, and when we walked out from the tree-lined road of the Rice campus, a breeze came to my face. How many people have now come to America to pursue the American Dream? President DesRoches, your success story is our model.



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**Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee**

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Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



## Southern DAILY Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A worshipper prays during a mass in support of Brazil's President and candidate for re-election Jair Bolsonaro, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



A local resident Dmytro stands in a flat in an apartment building destroyed by a Russian missile strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, October 21, 2022. REUTERS/Stringer



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram



A boy evacuated from the Russian-controlled city of Kherson looks on in a bus heading to Crimea, in the town of Oleshky, Kherson region, Russian-controlled Ukraine October 23, 2022. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



A local resident installs OSB plates instead of glass on balcony of his apartment damaged by a recent Russian missile attack in Mykolaiv, Ukraine October 22, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko

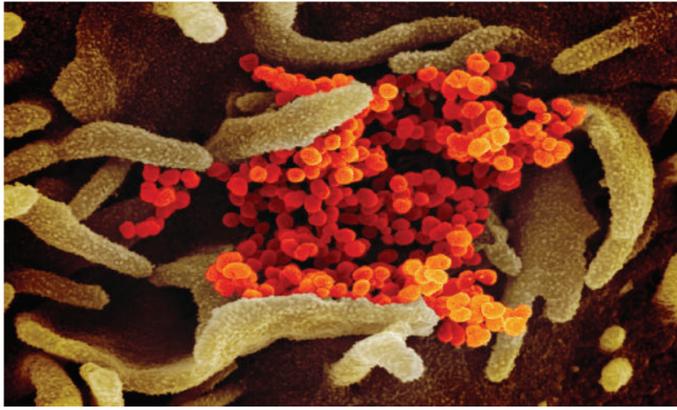


A local resident walks past cars damaged by a Russian missile attack in Mykolaiv, Ukraine October 23, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

South African Coronavirus Variant May Block Antibody Drugs, Former FDA Head Says



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Though COVID-19 vaccines will likely render effective against the South African coronavirus variant -- according to an infectious disease expert -- the former head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the strain may "obviate" other countermeasures, including antibody drugs.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former commissioner of the FDA, told CNBC's Shepard Smith last Tuesday that the strain appears to escape immunity from convalescent plasma and prior infection. "The South Africa variant is very concerning right now because it does appear that may it obviate some of our medical countermeasures, particularly the antibody drugs," Gottlieb said, pointing to evidence from Bloom Lab.



Bloom Lab

The variant involves mutations on the spike protein, including E484K, though the laboratory said the changes "reduce neutralization activity, they don't ablate it." What do results mean for possible SARS-CoV2 immune escape? Certainly mutations like E484K are concerning. But they \*reduce\* neut activity, they don't ablate it. Again, look at CoV-229E: takes years of evolution to escape serum neut of most people https://twitter.com/jbloom\_lab/status/1339939732529111040... (16/n)Next we tested how well human sera collected shortly after 1984 neutralized each viral spike. Below is serum from 26 yr old collected in 1985: it neutralizes 1984 virus well, but 10-fold less activity against 1992 virus & no activity against viruses after 2008. (3/n)

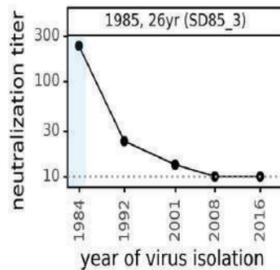
Gottlieb stressed that prompt vaccination is crucial amid the worrying strain, which has already been identified in Austria, Swit-

zerland, Japan, France, Zambia and the U.K., per a report by CNBC.

"The vaccine can become a backstop against these variants really getting more of a foothold in the United States but we need to quicken the pace of vaccination," the former FDA head said.



Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former commissioner of the FDA.



A top official with the World Health Organization said Tuesday there's no indication the virus is more or less transmissible than the separate mutated strain detected in the U.K.

"There's no indication that the 501Y.V2 variant has increased transmissibility compared to the U.K. variant," Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO technical COVID-19 lead, said during a briefing, noting many ongoing studies in South Africa are looking at the variant's circulation and transmissibility in modeling and neutralization studies. "But there's no indication that it's more or less transmissible than the Variant of Concern that was identified in the United Kingdom."

That said, Britain's health secretary on Monday warned that the coronavirus variant first detected in South Africa is a "very significant problem" and poses more of a risk than others.

"My concern is that it seems to be even [easier] to transmit than the new variant that we've seen here, and obviously it's been a huge challenge controlling the new variant in the U.K.," Hancock said, noting two cases of the South African variant were detected in the U.K., as of Monday.

South African Researchers Testing Current Vaccines Against Variant South African Coronavirus Variant 'Very Significant Problem,' UK Health Secretary Says



Britain's Health Secretary Matt Hancock

Britain's health secretary on Monday warned that the coronavirus variant first detected in South Africa is a "very significant problem" and poses more of a risk than others. Matt Hancock told BBC radio that he's "incredibly worried" about the new variant as others questioned whether currently approved vaccines would be effective against it.

"I'm incredibly worried about the South African variant," Hancock told BBC Radio 4's Today. "That's why we took the action that we did to restrict all flights from South Africa, and movement from South Africa, and to insist that anybody who's been to South Africa self isolates. This is a very, very significant problem." South African researchers are already working to determine whether the vaccines developed to combat COVID-19 will see the same success against the new variant, identified as 501.V2. "This is the most pressing question fac-

ing us right now," Dr. Richard Lessells, an infectious disease expert who is working on the country's genomic studies of the variant, told the Associated Press. "We are urgently doing experiments in the laboratory to test the variant."

The tests, called neutralizing assays, will test the variant against the blood of people with antibodies and against the blood of people who have already received vaccines, the Associated Press reported.



The variant has already been described as more infectious than the COVID-19 virus identified at the start of the pandemic. On Monday, Austria announced that it had discovered one case of the South African mutation in a 30-year-old woman who returned from a trip on Dec. 6. The country also said it had detected four cases of the U.K. variant, which has also been detected in the U.S. Britain is expected to expand further lockdown measures in a bid to stifle the spread of the new variant, which was discovered several weeks ago. The U.K. variant is believed to be the driving force of a new wave of coronavirus cases throughout the country.

"The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country," a spokesperson for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, according to Reuters. "The prime minister is clear that further steps must now be taken to arrest this rise and to protect the NHS and save lives. He will set those out this evening." (Courtesy Foxnews.com)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

CDC Flooded With Large Number Of Calls About COVID Conspiracy Plots During Pandemic



Photo Illustration by The Daily Beast/Getty

KEY POINTS CRANK CALLERS

Promoted by the Trump campaign and the increasingly off-centered QAnon conspiracy cult, a bogus COVID-19 statistic briefly took root—and tied up largely CDC officials.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been deluged with a flood of media requests about a conspiracy theory promulgated by QAnon—an increasingly violent far-right group praised by President Donald Trump that is widely known for spreading disinformation.

As the agency attempted to manage the fallout of a controversial Health and Human Services announcement that it had revised testing guidelines to exclude individuals who do not exhibit symptoms, officials were sidetracked by a barrage of inquiries about whether the CDC had lied about the number of Americans who died as a result of the coronavirus.

Over the weekend QAnon, a movement whose believers often push out falsities on a myriad of subjects, promoted a bogus theory that only 6 percent of people listed as having died from the coronavirus had "actually died" from COVID-19. Officials at the CDC said they spent the

last several days fielding questions or requests for comment from dozens of local and national outlets asking to clarify whether the agency had falsified its data. The wave of emails and calls about the conspiracy theory caught officials off-guard.



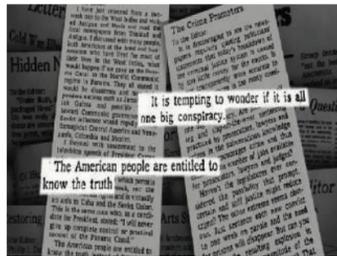
Fauci: "I Was Under Anesthesia When COVID Guidelines Changed."

"The amount of requests we had to deal with on this issue was insane," one senior official said. "And these were from legitimate outlets. This is all easily debunked by just searching our website for the

actual statistics."

The CDC effort to combat accusations from QAnon, a relatively new, increasingly unhinged movement that's making inroads into online health communities, shows the power that conspiracy theorists can have during the pandemic—especially when boosted by the president. It also shows just how permeable the barrier between conspiracy cranks and established media outlets can be.

"In all my time working in the government I've never had to deal with something this crazy. The level of disinformation spread by this group has grown in recent months and now we're having to actively debunk it through the press."



The "six percent" claim was embraced by conservatives, who have been eager for ways to downplay the virus' American death toll and have claimed for months that the CDC and hospitals were overcounting COVID-19 deaths. To QAnon supporters, the claim purports to show that COVID-19 has killed only 9,000 people, with the vast majority of the roughly 183,000 COVID-19 casualties actually killed by another ailment.

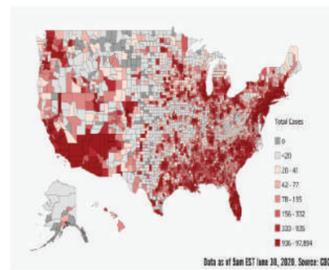
But they were wrong. In one section of an older data set, which relied on information collected from death certificates—one of the two main ways the CDC analyzes mortality in the U.S.—6 percent of people were listed as dying from COVID-19 alone. The death certificate algorithm scans for words such as "COVID-19" and "novel coronavirus" when analyzing mortality. In 94 percent of deaths with COVID-19, other conditions were listed in addition to COVID-19, such as diabetes or hypertension. Those conditions are often listed in the part of the death certificate that includes events that lead to an individual's death.

"Despite the QAnon calculation errors, the claim has been boosted

by President Trump and his campaign."

Despite the QAnon calculation errors, the claim has been boosted by President Trump and his campaign. Trump himself retweeted a post promoting the false statistic before Twitter deleted it for violating company rules, while Trump campaign senior legal adviser Jenna Ellis posted a link to an article on fringe website The Gateway Pundit trumpeting the 6 percent figure.

United States COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by County



The claim has also been promoted by high-profile QAnon conspiracy theorists, who believe that Trump is secretly engaged in a shadowy war against a global cabal of cannibal-pedophiles. The tweet Trump reposted, for example, came from a Twitter user and QAnon believer named "Mel Q," a reference to QAnon.

This isn't the first time during the pandemic that QAnon believers have played a key role in promoting coronavirus disinformation. Social media networks of QAnon supporters have become powerful ways to disseminate bogus stories about COVID-19, with QAnon believers promoting the viral disinformation video "Pandemic," among others. The debacle over QAnon's inaccurate read of the mortality statistics is just the latest example of how the CDC has in recent months tried to combat efforts by Trump and his supporters to downplay the death count.

Earlier this summer, Trump and members of his coronavirus task force pushed for the CDC to change the way it counted COVID-19 deaths. As The Daily Beast previously reported, The White House pressed the agency to work with states to change how they count coronavirus deaths and report them back to the federal government.



Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the U.S. coronavirus task force.

Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the task force, urged CDC officials to exclude from coronavirus death-count reporting some of those individuals who either do not have confirmed lab results and are presumed positive or who have the virus and may not have died as a direct result of it. Officials inside the CDC pushed back, claiming the move would skew mortality statistics. Since then, the team inside the CDC in charge of counting deaths has worked overtime to ensure the data it publishes on the agency's website is accurate and as up-to-date as possible.

The running narrative within the team is that the U.S. has underestimated, not overcounted, the number of people who have died from the coronavirus. As of Sept. 1, the CDC has reported that 183,050 Americans have died since the start of the pandemic. (Courtesy https://www.thedailybeast.com/)



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