

Spy Agencies
Urge Caution
On Phone Deal

Try to Keep U.S. Data
Out of Foreign Hands

By ERIC LICHTBLAU
WASHINGTON — An obscure federal contract for a company charged with routing millions of phone calls and text messages in the United States has prompted an unusual lobbying battle in which intelligence officials are arguing that the nation’s surveillance secrets could be at risk.
The contractor that wins the bid would essentially act as the air traffic controller for the nation’s phone system, which is run by private companies but is essentially overseen by the government.

And with a European-based company now favored for the job, some current and former intelligence officials — who normally stay out of the business of awarding federal contracts — say they are concerned that the government’s ability to trace reams of phone data used in terrorism and law enforcement investigations could be hindered.

A small Virginia company, Neustar, has held the job since the late 1990s, but a private phone-industry panel has recommended to the Federal Communications Commission that an American division of Ericsson, the Swedish-based technology company, get the work instead. No final decision has been made.
In its bid to hold on to the \$446 million job, Neustar has hired Michael Chertoff, a well-connected former secretary of homeland security, to examine the implications of the proposed switch.
In a 45-page report that Neustar plans to send to the F.C.C. this week, Mr. Chertoff, now a private consultant, argues that national security concerns have been slighted in the contracting process. An advance copy of his report is being reviewed by the Justice Department.
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House Hopefuls
In G.O.P. Seek
Rightward Shift

By JONATHAN WEISMAN
One nominee proposed reclassifying single parenthood as child abuse. Another suggested that four “blood moons” would herald “world-changing, shaking-type events” and said Islam was not a religion but a “complete geopolitical structure” unworthy of tax exemption. Still another labeled Hillary Rodham Clinton “the Antichrist.”
Congressional Republicans successfully ended their primary season with minimal damage, but in at least a dozen safe or largely safe Republican House districts where more mild-mannered Republicans are exiting, their likely replacements will pull the party to the right, a move likely to increase division in an already polarized Congress.
“Congressman Hall is a very genial and well-liked guy, and I hope that eventually I’m perceived that way too,” said John Ratcliffe, who in the Texas Republican primary defeated Ralph M. Hall, a 91-year-old with nearly 34 years in the House. But, he added: “The district that I will represent is far more conservative than most districts. Leadership will or should understand what the people in my district want — more conservative approaches and more conservative stands.”
For the House speaker, John A. Boehner, the newest crop of conservatives will present at best a

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People used umbrellas as shields from pepper spray fired by riot police officers, as protests flared in Hong Kong on Sunday.

BOBBY YIP/REUTERS

Mostly Black Cities, Mostly White City Halls

By RICHARD FAUSSET
CONYERS, Ga. — Since moving to this small city on the eastern flank of Atlanta’s suburban sprawl, Lorna Francis, a hairdresser and a single mother, has found a handsome brick house to rent on a well-groomed cul-de-sac. She has found a good public school for her teenage daughter.
Something Ms. Francis, who is black, has not found is time to register and vote. She was unaware that the most recent mayoral election was held last November.
“Life’s been busy — I’ve been trying to make that money,” Ms. Francis said one morning this month from her two-car garage,

New Majorities Don’t
Necessarily Produce
Ballot Victories

where she was micromanaging a particularly complex hairdo for a regular client. “And honestly, I only vote in major elections.”
That kind of disengagement is one of the many reasons that only one of the six elected positions in this municipality of 15,000 is held by an African-American, even as a wave of new black residents has radiated out from nearby Atlanta, creating a black majority here for the first time in the

city’s 160-year history.
Disparities between the percentage of black residents and the number of black elected officials are facts of life in scores of American cities, particularly in the South. The unrest that followed the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., has emphasized how much local elections can matter, and prompted a push there for increased black voter participation.
The disparities result from many factors: voter apathy, especially in low-visibility local elections; the civic disconnect of a transient population; the low financial rewards and long hours demanded of local officeholders; and voting systems, including

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HONG KONG POLICE
CONFRONT CROWD

Moves to Crush Protests
Draw More to Streets

By CHRIS BUCKLEY and ALAN WONG
HONG KONG — Downtown Hong Kong turned into a battlefield of tear gas and seething crowds on Sunday after the police moved against a student democracy protest, inciting public fury that brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets of a city long known as a stable financial center.
Hours after the riot police sought late Sunday to break up the protest, large crowds of demonstrators remained nearby, sometimes confronting lines of officers and chanting for them to lay down their truncheons and shields. Police officers were also injured in skirmishes with protesters.
The heavy-handed police measures, including the city’s first use of tear gas in years and the presence of officers with long-barreled guns, appeared to galvanize the public, drawing more people onto the streets. On Monday morning, protesters controlled major thoroughfares in at least three parts of the city. A few unions and the Hong Kong Federation of Students called for strikes, and the federation urged a boycott of classes.
Late Monday morning, the Hong Kong government said it had pulled back the riot police from roads where protesters had blocked traffic. The government urged protesters to end their sit-in demonstrations.
The confrontation threatened

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DAMON WINTER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pedalers vs. Pedestrians

Bikes and foot traffic crossed paths Sunday on a jammed West Drive in Central Park. Two deaths of pedestrians struck by bicycles have exposed the chaos of the six-mile park loop. Page A19.

BANGKOK JOURNAL

You Call This Thai Food? The Robotic Taster Will Be the Judge

By THOMAS FULLER
BANGKOK — Hopscotching the globe as Thailand’s prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra repeatedly encountered a distressing problem: bad Thai food.
Too often, she found, the meals she sampled at Thai restaurants abroad were unworthy of the name, too bland to be called genuine Thai cooking. The problem

bothered her enough to raise it at a cabinet meeting.
Her political party has since been thrown out of office, in a May military coup, but her initiative in culinary diplomacy lives on.
At a gala dinner at a ritzy Bangkok hotel on Tuesday the government will unveil its project to standardize the art of Thai food — with a robot.
Diplomats and dignitaries have

been invited to witness the debut of a machine that its promoters say can scientifically evaluate Thai cuisine, telling the difference, for instance, between a properly prepared green curry with just the right mix of Thai basil, curry paste and fresh coconut cream, and a lame imitation.
A boxy contraption filled with sensors and microchips, the so-called e-delicious machine scans food samples to produce a chemical

signature, which it measures against a standard deemed to be the authentic version.
The government-financed Thai Delicious Committee, which oversaw the development of the machine, describes it as “an intelligent robot that measures smell and taste in food ingredients through sensor technology in order to measure taste like a food

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GIORGIO TARASCHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Thai green curry meets a machine to determine if the food is authentic Thai fare.

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Hikers Feared Dead in Japan
Mount Ontake, a volcano west of Tokyo, erupted as hundreds of climbers hoping to get a glimpse of early autumn leaves were on its slopes. Dozens on the mountain are feared dead. *PAGE A4*



NATIONAL A3, 11-16

E.R. Sticker Shock
Even with solid insurance coverage, more emergency room patients leave with big medical bills because non-network doctors are brought in. *PAGE A13*

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Dire Warnings on E-Smoking
Tobacco giants are putting strong health warnings on e-cigarettes, raising some skepticism on their motives. *PAGE B1*

Writers Protest Amazon

Hundreds of authors are joining a coalition protesting Amazon’s tactics and are calling for a federal inquiry. *PAGE B1*

NEW YORK A19-23

A Life’s Dreams Lost
Maria Fernandes had three jobs, which left her with so little time to rest that a nap between shifts cost her everything. The Working Life. *PAGE A19*

Change for Youngest at Rikers

Solitary confinement will no longer be a punishment for 16- and 17-year-old inmates at the jail. *PAGE A20*

ARTS C1-7

Book Tour as Traveling Show

Lena Dunham’s tour for “Not That Kind of Girl” will offer poetry readings, music, comedy and food trucks. *PAGE C1*

SPORTSMONDAY D1-8

Single Ends a Singular Career
Derek Jeter appeared in his new uniform — a business suit — after bringing his 20-year career to a close with a hit in the third inning of the Yankees’ win over the Red Sox. *PAGE D1*



FASHION A18

Gaultier’s Last Looks
In Paris, the curtain came down on Jean Paul Gaultier’s ready-to-wear career amid a shower of gold spangles, a faux “Miss Gaultier” pageant that trotted out his greatest hits, and a parade of models of all ages. The clothes weren’t bad, either. Review by Vanessa Friedman. *PAGE A18*

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

Paul Krugman

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