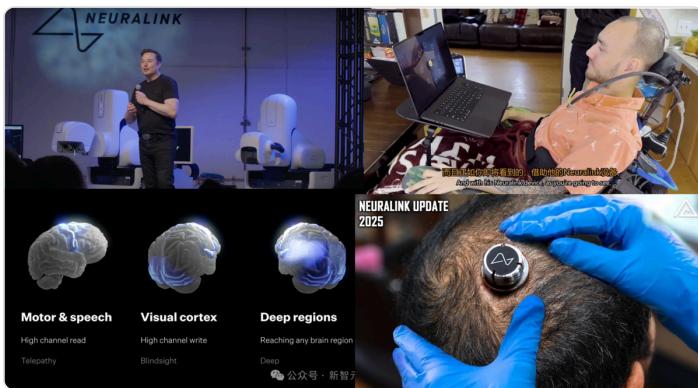


THE SUNDAY BLENDER

Flying Without Wings, Seeing Without Eyes, and Driving Without Humans

Jun 28, 2025

TECH



Elon Musk recently shared exciting updates about **Neuralink** during a June 2025 talk. He revealed that Neuralink is preparing to start human trials for vision-restoring implants within the next six months. These implants aim to help people who are completely blind by writing data directly to their visual cortex, allowing them to perceive sight again. Musk mentioned that one monkey has already had a visual implant for three years, showing promising results. Additionally, Neuralink now has seven human patients implanted with its brain-computer interface (BCI), mostly people with paralysis or ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), who can control computers using their thoughts. The company is also working on increasing the implant's electrode count from **1,000** to **3,000** in 2026, with plans to reach **10,000** channels by 2027 and over **25,000** by 2028. Future goals include multiple implants target-

ing different brain areas for speech, motor control, and vision, and integrating AI for advanced brain functions. The BCI technology is enabling humans to move from cursor control to brain-powered speech, vision, and eventually full neural-AI integration.



On June 22, 2025, **Tesla** took an exciting leap into the future by launching its first Robotaxi service in **Austin, Texas**. Around 10–20 Model Y cars began giving rides without drivers in a geo-fenced area of South Austin, operating from 6 AM to midnight. For just **\$4.20** per ride, lucky invite-only users, including Tesla fans and influencers, got to experience the magic of total self-driving. Each car has a safety monitor upfront for now, but **Elon Musk** proudly called this the “**culmination of a decade of hard work**.” Videos show smooth rides, cool turns, and the thrill of no hands on the wheel, though some clips reveal minor issues like sudden braking or lane confusion. Still, tech fans are buzzing with hope, as Tesla’s Robotaxi promises a future of hassle-free, ful-

ly autonomous transport. This is just the beginning – a powerful glimpse into a world where cars drive us anywhere, anytime.



In June 2025, seven **B-2** bombers flew from **Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, USA**, on a **37-hour** round-trip mission covering thousands of miles. The **B-2 Spirit** bomber is one of the most advanced planes ever built. It is known as a “stealth bomber” because its special shape and material make it almost invisible to radar. Its wings are shaped like a flying wing with no tail, which reduces drag and radar reflection. The plane is covered with radar-absorbing material, and even its engine air intakes are hidden to reduce heat signals. The B-2 can carry both nuclear and regular bombs, flying up to 11,000 km without refueling. Its controls are fly-by-wire, meaning a computer helps keep it stable because its shape alone would be hard to control. Only 21 were made, costing over **\$2 billion** each. It is amazing how the B-2 combines aerodynamics, material science, stealth technology, and advanced computer systems into one aircraft.



Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC)’s affiliate Vanguard International Semiconductor Corp. (VIS) plans to speed up production at its new **\$7.8 billion** chip factory in **Singapore**. Originally set to start in the first half of 2027, VIS now aims to begin production as early as late 2026 due to rising customer demand driven by geopolitical risks. The plant, a joint venture with Dutch chipmaker NXP Semiconductors, will produce mature chips used mainly in automotive, industrial, and consumer electronics. Construction began in late 2024, and the facility will create around **1,500** jobs. VIS and NXP are also discussing a possible second phase expansion, though no formal decision has been made yet. This move reflects the industry’s push to diversify manufacturing outside Taiwan to reduce supply chain risks amid global tech tensions. The Singapore plant will help strengthen the region’s semiconductor ecosystem and meet growing demand for reliable chip supplies.



British company **Gravity Industries** showcased its innovative jet suits during a high-profile demonstration aboard the HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier in Singapore on June 24, 2025. The event celebrated **60 years** of diplomatic relations between the UK and Singapore. Gravity’s jet suits, first launched in 2017, are powered by five gas turbine jet engines that enable vertical lift and speeds exceeding **125 km/h**. Pilots wearing the suits performed impressive flights around the carrier, wowing the crowd with their agility and speed. The jet suits combine over **1,000** horsepower with human balance, often draw-

ing comparisons to a real-life **Iron Man**. Gravity Industries, founded by **Richard Browning**, aims to push the boundaries of human flight and inspire innovation in aeronautical engineering. This demonstration highlighted the potential of jet suit technology for defense, rescue, and entertainment applications, showcasing cutting-edge British engineering on an international stage.

GLOBAL



Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) unveiled its Draft Master Plan 2025, aiming to build at least **80,000** new public and private homes over the next 10 to 15 years across more than 10 areas. Notably, several golf courses will be transformed into housing, parks, and hospitals to meet growing demand. For example, the former Keppel Club golf course will be redeveloped into a new estate with about **9,000** homes, including **6,000** public flats, featuring lush green spaces and biodiversity-friendly designs. Other sites like Bukit Timah Turf City and Bukit Merah will also see new residential developments. Central areas such as Newton and Paterson near Orchard Road will be reshaped into mixed-use urban villages with integrated transport, retail, and leisure facilities. The plan emphasizes creating liveable, inclusive communities with better access to amenities and green spaces, reflecting Singapore's commitment to sustainable growth and housing affordability while repurposing underused land like golf courses for the city's future needs.

ECONOMY & FINANCE



China has launched its first direct air cargo route between northwest China's **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region** and **Ethiopia**, marking a significant step in China-Africa trade cooperation. Operated by **Ethiopian Airlines**, the route features two to three weekly flights using a Boeing 777 freighter. The flight connects **Urumqi**, Xinjiang's regional capital, with **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia's capital, facilitating the seamless transport of goods both ways. Xinjiang exporters can now easily reach African and global markets, while premium African products like beef, lamb, specialty coffee, and horticultural items are delivered directly to Chinese consumers. Customs authorities in Urumqi have introduced streamlined procedures, including direct sorting and distribution upon arrival, to boost logistics efficiency. This new cargo route is the eighth international freight link launched from Urumqi in 2025, contributing to the region's growing role as a logistics hub. Officials expect it to attract more businesses, stimulate related industries, and create new jobs, strengthening economic ties between China and Africa.

SCIENCE



Excessive screen time is changing the brain in surprising and harmful ways. Research shows that adults **aged 18 to 25** who spend too much time on screens may experience thinning of the cerebral cortex, the brain's outer layer responsible for memory, problem-solving, and decision-making. This can re-

duce concentration and cognitive ability. High screen use also leads to lower gray matter volume, which accelerates brain aging and affects memory and emotional control. Additionally, blue light from screens disrupts sleep by delaying melatonin production, harming cognitive performance and mood. Constantly checking phones right after waking can trigger stress responses, keeping the brain in a hyper-alert state. Long hours of screen use have been linked to increased risks of dementia, stroke, and Parkinson's disease. Experts recommend practical steps like the **20-20-20 rule**—looking at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds every 20 minutes—taking regular breaks, limiting late-night screen use, and engaging in physical and social activities to protect brain health and improve focus.

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

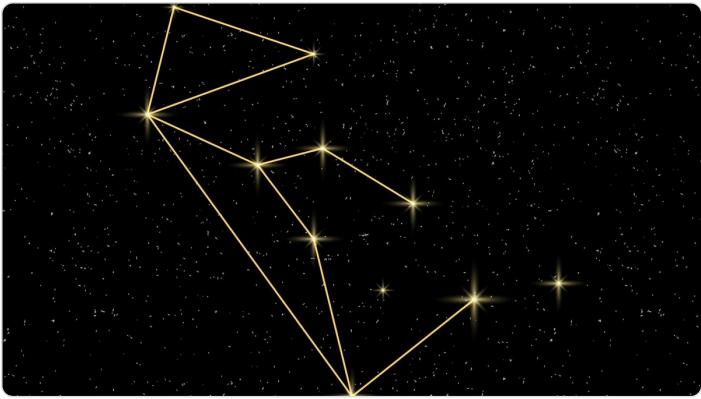


On June 20, 2025, a severe storm outbreak hit southern and eastern **North Dakota**, USA, producing multiple tornadoes and extreme winds. The most powerful tornado was an EF3 near **Enderlin**, with winds reaching **160 mph** and a damage path nearly a mile wide. This tornado destroyed homes, overturned railcars, and tragically killed three people, marking the deadliest tornado in the state since **1978**. Within an hour, two more EF2 tornadoes struck nearby areas, adding to the destruction. The storm system also caused hurricane-force winds up to **111 mph**, uprooting trees, damaging buildings, and knocking out power for thousands. In total, the National Weather Service confirmed 13 tornadoes across North Dakota, including EF1 and EF2 torna-

does near Adrian, Jamestown, and Spiritwood. The damage was widespread, affecting grain storage, power lines, and even wind turbines. North Dakota's governor declared a statewide disaster and praised first responders for their efforts during this historic and deadly weather event.



Heavy rains have caused severe flooding in **Guizhou** province, southwestern **China**, hitting the riverside city of Rongjiang twice in one week. The floods forced the evacuation of over **80,000** people and resulted in six deaths. Rongjiang, located where three rivers meet and home to about **300,000** residents, experienced unprecedented rainfall, twice the usual June amount over 72 hours. Water levels in local rivers surpassed safety limits, with one peak reaching the highest since **1954**. The flooding damaged infrastructure, homes, and disrupted communications and transportation. Rescue teams worked to evacuate trapped residents and provide emergency aid. In one dramatic incident, an 8-year-old girl survived seven hours trapped in a sewer after being swept away by floodwaters. The floods have caused significant economic and social impacts, highlighting challenges posed by extreme weather linked to climate change.



A spectacular nova—designated **V462 Lupi**—has erupted suddenly in the constellation Lupus. First detected on June 12, 2025, this star was once dim (magnitude 22) but has soared in brightness by over **three million times**, reaching around magnitude 5–6. That puts it within naked-eye visibility—a rare phenomenon often seen just once in a lifetime. Best viewed from mid-southern latitudes of **North America**, it shines most brightly in early evening hours, visible through binoculars or a dark sky. This nova occurs in a binary system: a white dwarf siphons hydrogen from a companion until pressure triggers a thermonuclear explosion on its surface. The blast briefly lights up the star dramatically, then fades over weeks to months. Stargazers are encouraged to look southwest after dark, hopping from **Scorpius** toward **Lupus**—this unfolding celestial fireworks show won't last long!

ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE



Imagine Dragons' LOOM World Tour is their biggest and most electrifying stadium tour ever! Kicking off in July 2024 and running until

September 2025, it spans **81 shows** across North America, South America, Asia, and Europe. Fans are thrilled to hear powerful new songs like **Fire in These Hills**, **Take Me to the Beach**, and **Wake Up**, mixed with their legendary hits **Radioactive**, **Believer**, and **Demons**. Each show is packed with stunning lights, giant screens, fireworks, and amazing live energy that gets everyone jumping and singing along. In Madrid on **June 28, 2025**, the band played an unforgettable 21-song set that lit up the night. With opening acts like **Declan McKenna** and **Cannons**, the tour is a full evening of great music and memories. For Imagine Dragons fans, the LOOM World Tour is not just a concert – it's a celebration of their journey, passion, and dreams.



Nerima Kingdom is an amazing fantasy city built in **Minecraft** by the creator **Timtenth_Buildings**. It took him around **1,300 hours** to finish – that's over 50 full days of building! The kingdom looks like a grand medieval Japanese realm, filled with tall temples, strong castles, beautiful bridges, statues, and many small houses. Each building has stunning details and fantasy touches, combining Japanese-style roofs with magic-inspired towers. Timtenth shared a YouTube timelapse video showing the entire building process, which has over **3 million views**, inspiring players worldwide. What makes Nerima Kingdom even more special is that it's available for download, so Minecraft players can explore, study, and enjoy it in their own game worlds. Fans love how

one person created such a huge, detailed city alone. Nerima Kingdom is not just a Minecraft build – it is a masterpiece of creativity, patience, and imagination that encourages everyone to dream big. Timtent makes **\$1,863/month** by making many Minecraft schematics available for download on his website.



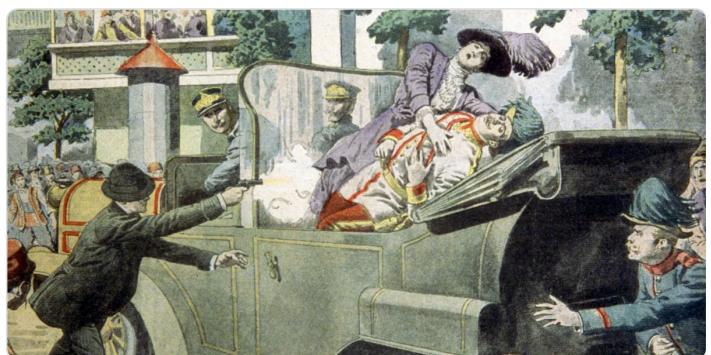
Brad Pitt's F1 movie had a spectacular opening weekend, grossing about **\$140 million** worldwide, making it his most successful film to date. It earned around **\$85 million** in the U.S. alone, surpassing previous Apple Studios records and beating Pitt's earlier hit **World War Z**, which opened at **\$112 million** globally. The film made an impressive **\$25 million** on its opening day, including **\$2.8 million** from early preview screenings, and was shown in over **3,600 theaters**, including premium formats like **IMAX** and **Dolby Cinema**. Critics and audiences alike praised the film, giving it an "A" **CinemaScore** and strong word-of-mouth. The movie's success is notable as it outperformed expectations for a high-budget adult drama outside of established franchises. It also dethroned **How to Train Your Dragon** at the box office and outpaced new releases like **M3GAN 2.0**.

SPORTS



Victor Wembanyama, a young 7-foot-3 NBA star from the **San Antonio Spurs**, spent ten days at a **Shaolin Temple** in China. There, he woke up very early every morning, shaved his head, and wore monk robes. He trained in kung fu, stretched his body, and practiced meditation. He ate simple meals like rice and vegetables and stayed away from his phone and other electronics. Living like a monk helped him focus on his mind and body without distractions. He learned the value of a strict daily routine, which made him feel stronger, calmer, and more confident. Victor said this experience taught him self-discipline and helped his body move in new ways. By stepping away from screens and his busy life, he found peace and new energy. This shows that sometimes, having a disciplined routine and taking a break from electronics can make us healthier, more focused, and ready for big challenges ahead.

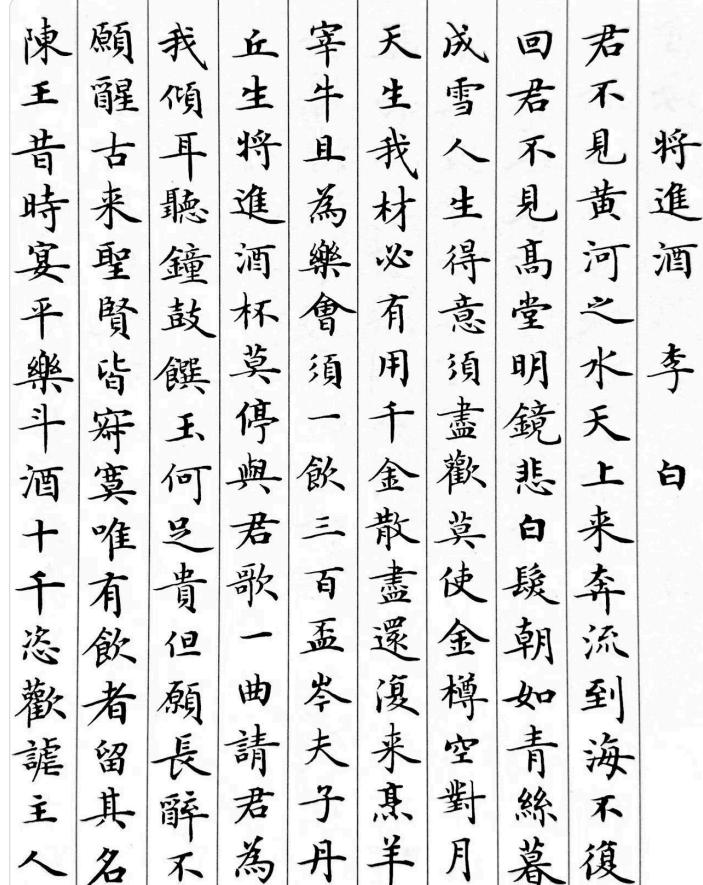
THIS DAY IN HISTORY



On **June 28, 1914**, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** of **Austria-Hungary** and his wife, Sophie, visited **Sarajevo, Bosnia**. A secret group called the Black Hand wanted Bosnia to join Serbia.

One member threw a bomb at their car, but it missed and injured others. Later, Franz Ferdinand decided to visit the injured in the hospital. On the way, their driver took a wrong turn by mistake and stopped to reverse. At that exact spot, Gavrilo Princip, another member of the group, was standing. He was shocked to see the Archduke right in front of him. He pulled out his gun and shot both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie, killing them. This assassination made **Austria-Hungary** angry, and they blamed Serbia, leading to World War I. It is amazing how a simple wrong turn, just a small random event, led to such a big war, changing countries, empires, and millions of lives forever.

ART OF THE WEEK



“將進酒” (Jiāng Jìn Jiǔ), or “Bring in the Wine,” was written by **Li Bai**, a famous Chinese poet from the Tang Dynasty. Li Bai loved writing poems about nature, freedom, and enjoying life. In this poem, he talks about how short life is and how we should live happily without worrying too much. He says that time moves fast like a flowing river and will never come back. He also reminds people that being sad or always chasing money and power is not good because those things don't last forever. Instead, he encourages people to spend time with friends, enjoy beautiful moments, and live bravely and confidently. Even though he mentions wine in the poem, the deeper meaning is about living with a big and happy heart. This poem shows Li Bai's strong spirit and free mind, which is why people still love and read it after more than a thousand years.

FUNNY



"I'm ready for the exciting last 30 seconds of the basketball game which stretch into 25 minutes of fouls, time-outs, and commercials."



WATCHING F1 LIVE

