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08:30 GMT, Wednesday, December 24, 2014

▶▶▶ Economy

Investing.com

▶ Brent drops towards \$61 as dollar firms on strong U.S. data

Brent futures fell toward \$61 per barrel on Wednesday, giving up some of the previous session's gains, as the U.S. dollar held near its highest level in nearly nine years on strong data.

BBC

► Asian shares higher on US record gains

Asian shares traded higher on Wednesday, taking the lead from Wall Street where shares closed at a record level overnight.

▶▶▶ Currencies

FX Street

► NZD/USD advances, holds above 0.77 handle

The NZD/USD edged higher in the mid-Asian session, reversing three consecutive days of losses as US dollar retreated against major currencies from multi-year highs.

The Economic Times

▶ Rupee down 20 paise against dollar in early trade

The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to 63.48 against the US currency in early trade today at the Interbank Foreign Exchange due to the dollar's gains against its rivals overseas.

▶▶▶ Top Videos

Bloomberg

► Barclays' Yang: Why We're Very Bearish on Tech in 2015

Barclays' Kirk Yang discusses the outlook for tech in 2015 with Bloomberg's Rishaad Salamat, Angie Lau, Yvonne Man and John Dawson on "Asia Edge."

CNBC

► How this Singapore retailer keeps up with the times

Kevin Dyson, COO of Tangs, explains how the retailer stays relevant as online shopping gains popularity. He later introduces this season's hottest trend-setting items.

▶▶▶ Politics

The Guardian

Northern Ireland parties agree £2bn deal to secure power-sharing

First minister calls deal 'monumental' with cash to ease welfare reforms that

could create 60,000 jobs and save peace process.

First Post.

► <u>Bharat Ratnas: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Madan Mohan Malviya to get India's</u> highest civilian award

After speculation for months, the President today announced that the Bharat Ratna would be awarded to former BJP Malviya...

▶▶▶ Markets

The Wall Street Journal

► Natural Gas Likely to Cause More Driller Indigestion

Chances of a white Christmas in the U.S. haven't been so low in at least a decade. That has natural-gas drillers feeling blue this holiday season.

Market Watch

China's shadow-banking boom is over

Following years of explosive growth, China's shadow-banking industry is experiencing a sharp slowdown after Beijing tightens its grip on the sector, which has been a key source of funding for the economy but also has added to rising debt levels and other risks in the financial system.

▶▶▶ Opinions

Global Times

► <u>Eurasian union unappealing prospect following Russia's economic slump</u> The upcoming new year will bring many changes in some countries near

China. Probably the most interesting is the coming of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) which will come into existence on January 1.

The New York Times

► Is Vacation Over?

More than we may realize, the world has been riding a lucky streak since the global financial meltdown in 2008. How so? The years between 2008...













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