

HD Reuters Business News Schedule at 0430 GMT/12.30AM ET**WC** 389 words**PD** 13 August 2014**ET** 14:30**SN** Reuters News**SC** LBA**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2014 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.**LP**

Editor: Bangalore Pages +1 651 848 5900 or +91 80 6749 1306

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Japan suffers biggest economic slump since 2011 quake as tax hike bites

TOKYO- Japan suffers its biggest economic contraction since the devastating March 2011 earthquake in the second quarter as a sales tax hike takes a heavy toll on household spending, keeping policymakers under pressure to expand fiscal and monetary stimulus should the recovery falter. (JAPAN-ECONOMY/GDP (UPDATE 3), moving shortly, by Leika Kihara and Tetsushi Kajimoto, 1000 words)

Alibaba bonus scheme strengthens Ma's control

BEIJING - Jack Ma, founder and executive chairman of Alibaba Group Holding, holds deep sway over executive and board appointments at **China's** biggest e-commerce **company**, and that influence is set to strengthen further at the **firm**, which is heading towards an initial share **sale** in New York that could raise more than \$15 **billion** later this year. (ALIBABA-BONUSES (PIX, GRAPHICS), moving shortly, 900 words)

MARKETS

Asian shares sluggish, Ukraine anxiety fans growth worries

TOKYO - Asian shares are tentative, and **copper** prices slip to six-week lows on worries about global growth, as investors remain cautious as the crisis in Ukraine threatens a fragile economic recovery in Europe. (MARKETS-GLOBAL/ (WRAPUP 3, GRAPHIC), expect by 0530 GMT/1.30AM ET, by Hideyuki Sano, 800 words)

ECONOMY

Australian consumers cheer up, but wages a drag

SYDNEY - A measure of Australian consumer sentiment rises strongly in August as households grow more optimistic on the near-term economic outlook and fret less about their finances, even as wage growth stays stuck at 16-year lows. (AUSTRALIA-ECONOMY/CONSUMERSENTIMENT (UPDATE 1) , moved, 500 words)

COMPANIES

Australian gamer Echo in long contest for clientele with rival Crown

SYDNEY - Australian gaming **firm** Echo Entertainment Group is braced for a five-year battle over rich Asian punters with **billionaire** James Packer's Crown Resorts as its rival builds a luxury casino a mile from its key Sydney asset.(ECHO ENT GROUP-RESULTS/ (UPDATE 2), moving shortly, 500 words)

Anger flares as mainland **Chinese** muscle in on Taiwan property

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