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Depp severed finger during three-day row with ex-wife, UK court told

London.— Hollywood star Johnny Depp wrote on a wall with blood from his severed finger tip during a long and violent confrontation with his ex-wife Amber Heard five years ago, London's High Court heard yesterday at his libel case against a British tabloid.

Depp told the court he suffered "some species of nervous breakdown" during a row with actress Heard, but denied he had violently attacked her and accused her of cutting his finger by throwing a bottle at him.

The revelations came on the third day of Depp's appearance in the witness stand as he sues the publisher of Britain's *Sun* tabloid,

News Group Newspapers, over an article in which it labelled the actor a "wife beater".

The court heard that Depp was in Australia in March 2015 to film *Pirates of the Caribbean* a month after the couple married. Heard had flown to join him from London, where she had been making a movie with co-star Billy Bob Thornton.

The *Sun's* lawyer Sasha Wass said Heard suffered a three-day ordeal at Depp's hands in the rented house where the actor was staying after she became angry at him because he had been drinking to excess and taking drugs.

UK borrowing set to hit 350 billion pounds, risks rising further

British finance minister Rishi Sunak will probably have to ramp up borrowing again this year, even with the country already on course for its biggest peacetime budget deficit in three centuries, leading think-tanks said yesterday.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies said the deficit could hit 350 billion pounds (\$442 billion) following Sunak's latest emergency coronavirus spending announcement, but that was the price to pay for rescuing the economy.

"Back in March, the government forecast a deficit of about 50 to 60 billion pounds this year. Our current estimate is it could well be around 350 billion pounds," IFS deputy director Carl Emmerson said. Sunak was likely to deliver more targeted support to the economy again in the autumn, the IFS said.

The Resolution Foundation said high-street retailers had received little help and would probably need more assistance. Pharmacy and beauty products retailer Boots said yesterday it would cut more than 4,000 jobs, and department store chain John Lewis said 1,300 jobs could go as it announced the closure of eight stores.

"By not going further the chancellor is taking quite a gamble on the strength of the recovery in the months ahead," Torsten Bell, the think-tank's chief executive, said. Despite the scale of its borrowing, Britain's emergency measures so far represented a "a mid-range bazooka" at 8% of economic output, smaller than the United States' 12%, he said. Britain's economy shrank by a quarter in March and April and the signs of recovery so far have been limited. Sunak, who has ignored his Conservative Party's pro-market instincts to put the state at the heart of his recovery plan, on Wednesday announced measures costing 30 billion pounds to stem a surge in unemployment, including bonuses for firms that help bring back as many as 9 million workers from furlough.

WEAR A FACE MASK OR PAY A BIG FINE



● Until now face masks were only mandatory in commercial establishments or when social distancing of 1.5 metres was impossible. Anyone caught without a mask will be fined €100. President Francina Armengol says the Government's priority is to protect the health of residents and visitors, and that face masks are absolutely necessary because "the virus continues to coexist" in Balearic society. The new ruling comes into force from Monday across the Balearics. See Page 3.

MASK COVER

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