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Actor Depp loses bid to appeal wife beater libel ruling, turns to U.S. case

London's Court of Appeal yesterday refused Johnny Depp permission to challenge a verdict last year that concluded the Hollywood actor was a "wife beater", meaning his attempt to restore his reputation will shift to U.S. legal action.

In November, High Court judge Andrew Nicol ruled against Depp, star of films including *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Edward Scissorhands*, after he brought a libel case against the Sun tabloid newspaper.

After three weeks of hearings last summer, Nicol concluded Depp, 57, had violently assaulted his ex-wife, actress Amber

Heard, 34, during a tempestuous five-year relationship, putting her in fear of her life.

"As we have said, it is not easy to persuade this court to overturn the findings of a trial judge on purely factual questions," the two Court of Appeal judges said in their judgment.

"We do not believe that there is a real prospect of it being prepared to do so in this case." Last week, Depp's lawyers said Nicol's ruling was "plainly wrong" and asked to rely on new evidence which they said showed Heard's claim she had donated her divorce settlement to charity was "a calculated and manipulative lie".

Balearics continue to be most popular region for foreign home buyers

● The Balearics had the highest percentage among the regions – 29.6% of all purchases – followed by Valencia

(23.3%), the Canaries (22.8%) and Murcia (18.5%).

● See Page Four.



TUI puts brake on summer plans

London.—TUI touched the brakes on its summer holiday plans yesterday, lowering capacity for July onwards to 75% of 2019's level from 80% previously, as Europe's peak travel season hangs in the balance.

Germany-based TUI has secured multiple bailouts from the German government to see it through the pandemic, and like most airlines and travel companies is banking on a big travel rebound this summer to restore its battered finances.

Berlin.—Germany plans to introduce a requirement for all airline passengers entering the country to provide a negative coronavirus test result before departure, German daily *Bild* reported, citing government sources.

So far, only passengers from countries or regions with a high coronavirus infection rate are required to provide a negative test result.

But there has been growing concern over increased travel over the Easter holiday season, after airlines added hundreds of flights to Majorca, where the infection rate is below the threshold at which tests are required.

PCR tests for German tourists