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LATE NEWS

Alexander Forbes looks into sale

Broker Alexander Forbes Group (Pty) Ltd. is in discussions with private equity partners about a possible sale of the brokerage.

In addition, the Johannesburg, South Africa-based broker announced the resignation of its group chief executive officer and that it is considering various options for its London-based International Risk Services arm, including potential outside investment in the unit.

In an announcement to the South African stock exchange, Alexander Forbes said it had "received a number of unsolicited approaches about the possibility of concluding a transaction

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BROADER VIEW OF RISK

The new AIRMIC president sets his sights on a broader role for risk managers. P3

FERRY INVESTIGATION

An Estonian panel questions an earlier inquiry into a 1994 Baltic ferry tragedy. P4

CLIMATE CHANGES

Lloyd's of London issues a broad review and analysis of climate change and its impact on insurers. P18

RUSSIAN RISK MANAGERS

With a growing market economy, Russian companies recognize the need for risk management. P16

NORDIX EXPANSION

Finland's Sampo plans to expand PIC operations in Russia to keep pace with expansion there by its Nordic clients. P32

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The 2006 World Cup pits 32 national teams against each other in a month-long tournament. The Japanese team beat Malta 1-0 in a friendly match at the Dusseldorf arena to conclude Japan's preparations for the World Cup finals.

GLOBAL RISKS WITH A KICK

World Cup challenges organizers, insurers to protect athletes, public and venues from range of exposures large and small

By Michael Bradford

[MUNICH] As 32 nations battle for the 2006 FIFA World Cup Trophy in 12 stadiums throughout Germany, insurers are making sure that organizers and others associated with the event are not big losers off the field.

The world football championship, held every four years, began June 9 in the Allianz Arena – called FIFA World Cup Stadium Munich during the tournament – in Frottmaning, just outside Munich. The tournament runs until July 9, when the final match is played in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Insurance is in place to cover a number of World Cup risks, including cancellation of the final competition due to terrorism or natural catastrophes.

Much of the coverage for the Fédération Internationale

See **WORLD CUP** on P22

MORE ON WORLD CUP: Stadium safety and security, player protection, event canceled. P22-25

Class action lawsuit fever hits Europe

Lawsuit reforms make mass torts easier

By Sarah Veysey

European risk managers are watching closely developments in various countries that may make it easier for plaintiffs to bring class-action or mass tort-style lawsuits.

Several European countries have either introduced mechanisms, or currently are considering systems, under which it would be easier for plaintiffs to bring group lawsuits.

And while the legal systems of most European countries currently preclude trial by jury in mass tort cases or punitive damage awards, and many countries do not have systems that allow lawyers to charge contingency fees – all of which sources say have

REFORM FALLOUT Liability reforms will increase the number of class action lawsuits in Europe, a Clifford Chance lawyer contends, but it will be nowhere near the high level of U.S. litigation. P36

helped to fuel large class action litigation payouts and settlements in the United States – risk managers say they will follow the progress of legislative developments and heed lessons they have learned from experiences of class actions across the Atlantic.

Risk managers "definitely" are looking at the issue of class action lawsuits, and this

See **CLASS ACTION** on P36

New risk group forms in Poland

Polrisk elects officers, begins to set agenda

By Rick Miller

[WARSAW, POLAND] Risk managers in Poland have formed a new association, one of a number emerging in eastern and central Europe.

The Polish Association of Risk Management, also known as Polrisk, held its first official meeting last month to select members of its board and supervisory committee, said Rafal Rudnicki, Polrisk's board president and group risk manager for Dutch distribution and logistics company Raben Group.

Polrisk has 22 members so far, with hopes to double that number by the end of the year, Mr. Rudnicki said. The association, made up mostly of risk managers, is still trying to determine how to handle affiliated professionals, such as academics, brokers, and insurers.

"We have already been approached by a number of underwriters to sponsor our activities, but we want to be very careful with that because we want to stay an independent

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