

World/Nation

King hopes logging ban stops Thailand flooding

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The king has approved a ban on logging, which was blamed for causing floods that killed more than 350 people, a newspaper reported Sunday.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej signed decrees Saturday that empowered the agriculture minister to revoke 301 logging concessions.

Those concessions are in 4.8 million acres that straddle national

and wildlife conservation areas, *The Nation* said.

The decrees, approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, are expected to be passed by Parliament when it opens in May.

"We have almost no forests left," *The Nation* quoted Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan as saying.

"The principle is that we have to

protect the remaining forests," he told the newspaper.

In the November floods, people were killed as mud, felled logs and trees rolled down barren hillsides and buried villages.

The prime minister said Thailand would import logs and wood products from Malaysia, Burma, Laos and Indonesia.

Capitol gets ready to party for president's inauguration

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bunting is draped, tuxes are rented, hair is coiffed, hotels are filling up, strings are tuned, caviar is spread and the champagne's on ice. Washington is ready to party.

True to a grand old American tradition, it will take George Bush less than a minute at noon on Friday to repeat the 35-word oath of office making him President of the United States. But his well-wishers will require four days to celebrate.

When the last drink is spilled and the last dance is over, they'll leave town with a \$25 million hangover after the biggest and most expensive inauguration in U.S. history.

The party officially begins Wednesday afternoon with a candle-lighting ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial and reaches a glitzy crescendo Friday night at no fewer than 11 inaugural balls where upwards of 60,000 invited guests are paying for the privilege of jostling for brief glimpses of Bush and his vice president, Dan Quayle.

In addition to the 16 official inaugural events — including a sobering worship service for 2,800 people Sunday morning at Washington Cathedral — there'll be hundreds of cocktail parties, receptions, teas, dances, dinner parties, breakfasts, buffet lunches, hootenannies and shindigs from Embassy Row to downtown corporate suites.

Ridgewells Caterers is dispatching 60 trucks and 700 waiters to serve 20,000 gourmet meals from Capitol Hill to Georgetown during the heaviest crush on Friday, company president Jim Caulfield said.

"Every office with a window on Pennsylvania Avenue for the parade will have a party," he said.

Windows Catering Co. is cutting 1,000 elephant-shaped cookies for a parade brunch and flying in mussels from New Zealand, freshwater shrimp from Alabama, crayfish from Louisiana and belon oysters from Maine for another party at the National Gallery of Art.

To handle the inaugural demand

for its power clientele, the posh Ritz-Carlton Hotel says it has imported 60 pounds of white truffle mushrooms from Paris (at \$400 a pound), 1,000 pounds of wild boar sausage, 1,080 quail eggs, more than a ton of Norwegian salmon, 800 quarts of raspberries and nearly 7,000 bottles of wine.

Dining around town will range from box lunches for inaugural parade spectators to a lavish black-tie candlelight dinner for Bush, Quayle and Republican Party stalwarts and fat-cat contributors at newly refurbished Union Station. The inaugural dinner is so popular, even at \$1,500 a plate, that it will spill over into the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the sprawling Pension Building.

A soup kitchen dinner will be served to the homeless outside Union Station while diners inside feast on Maryland crab loaf, mushroom-stuffed roast loin of veal, asparagus bundled in carrot curls, a

green salad with Vermont cheddar cheese and — for dessert — apple-cranberry brown betty with cinnamon ice cream and bourbon custard.

The most expensive show in town is the star-studded inaugural gala for 12,000 invitation-only guests Thursday night at the Washington Convention Center, where an eight-seat box is selling for \$25,000.

The two-hour show, to be broadcast live on CBS television, features such top Broadway and Hollywood talent as Frank Sinatra, Anita Baker and Julio Iglesias. There'll also be classical music and — in deference to Bush's taste for country and Western music — down-home singing by such Nashville luminaries as Randy Travis and Loretta Lynn.

For inaugural fans with smaller pocketbooks, there's a salute to Barbara Bush in all three major halls of the Kennedy Center at midday Thursday.

Film company offers Reagan role in movie

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A film company working on a low-budget movie about basketball great Pete Maravich wants the nation's best-known actor, President Reagan, to take his first movie part in 20 years.

"Basically his appeal reflects the theme of the movie, which is the American dream, having a dream and going after it despite the odds," Darrel Campbell, writer-producer of "The Pistol," said.

"Ronald Wilson Reagan started out like a lot of common people and then dreamed big dreams and became an actor and then became President of the United States, leader of the free world," he said.

Members of L.A. Production Group asked Reagan to play a cameo

part as principal of Maravich's high school in South Carolina, and they've gotten the governor and some other politicians into the act.

Gov. Buddy Roemer, U.S. Rep. Richard Baker and former U.S. Rep. Henson Moore have written Reagan about the project, Associate Producer L.E. Wallace said.

But the filmmakers may have to wait in line.

"The president's future plans have not been determined at this point," White House spokesman Ben Jarratt in Washington said. "There have been other movie offers. There's a lot of interest in the president, in the entertainer."

Maravich, who played for New Orleans and Boston in the NBA, died in January 1988.

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