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Samy Vellu's `advice' gets pride of place

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THERE is a strong chance the MIC national leadership, from the deputy president downwards, will be returned at the forthcoming annual general assembly following party chief Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's "advice".

Speaking to the Press on Wednesday, he said deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam and vice-presidents Datuk G. Palanivel, Datuk S. Veerasingam and Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar should be returned for another term.

Both Tamil Nesan and Malaysian Nanban front-paged the story the next day.

Samy Vellu was returned unopposed when nominations for the president's post closed on March 8. The general assembly will be held on May 10.

Nanban quoted Samy Vellu as saying he wanted second echelon leaders who could work with him.

Tamil Nesan also editorialisised the warning from the Human Resources Ministry to the private sector not to use the possible effects of the invasion of Iraq to retrench workers. It said the ministry should monitor the private sector closely to ensure workers were laid off only on legitimate grounds.

Tamil Nesan also carried a front page story on Thursday quoting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that the Federal Government had yet to decide on whether Thaipusam would be made a national holiday. It is a holiday in Selangor, Perak, Penang, Johor and Negri Sembilan.

Meanwhile, Indian actress Aishwarya Rai will make her presence as a judge at the Cannes film festival on May 13, Tamil Nesan reported. She has confirmed her attendance at the festival, one of the world's best.