

Select Committee to consider re-demarcation of North-East

THE ISLAND
30.5.93

by Zacki Jabbar

The Mangala Moonesinghe Parliamentary Select Committee on the ethnic issue is expected to give serious consideration to the re-demarcation of the boundaries of the Northern and Eastern Provinces when the Committee meets on June 10, informed sources said.

Select Committee sources said that the re-demarcation of the boundaries of the two provinces

seemed to be the only formula that would be acceptable to the Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

These sources said that the Eelam Peoples Democratic Party (EPDP) has, for the first time, indicated that it would submit its own proposals.

The Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) proposal that the unit of devolution should be the "Dis-

trict" and not the "Province" will also be taken up for discussion.

It is learnt that there would be certain changes to the interim report of the Select Committee.

Political sources said that there are behind-the-scenes lobbying by some concerned parties including academics to suggest alternative proposals with a view to bringing back the Tamil parties to the negotiating table.