

## **More banks will increase service availability: Muhith**

*'Govt developing provision for banks to merge'*

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The government should introduce more banks for providing banking services at the doorsteps of people, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

"There're many banks in the country. I am not worried about it at all...the banking sector should be expanded," said the finance minister

Muhith said it on Tuesday to reporters on the sidelines of a contract signing ceremony at the Finance Ministry office in the capital.

Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) of the ministry signed agreements with Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX) and East West University (EWU) to establish an Executive Development Centre (EDC) to develop skills of professionals, said a BSS report.

SEIP Executive Programme Project Director Abdur Rouf Talukder, BUTEX Vice-Chancellor Prof Mashud Ahmed and EWU Vice-Chancellor Prof M M Shahidul Hassan signed the deals on behalf of their respective sides.

Muhith said there is a provision for merging banks and the government is updating the provision.

"As per the provision, interested banks can merge," he said.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) proposed a Multi-Tranche Financing Facility (MFF) Programme to take a long-term and comprehensive approach to support skills development in Bangladesh.

Under the programme, EWU will provide skill development training to 300 people by December 2020. The cost of the training programme is Tk 99.9 million.

BUTEX will train up 540 trainees by 2020 with a cost of Tk 124 million.

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