

Coronavirus death toll reaches 1,110

By AFP



A medical worker monitors patients in the isolated intensive care unit at a hospital in Wuhan on Feb 6. (AP pic)

BEIJING: The number of fatalities from China's new coronavirus epidemic jumped to 1,110 nationwide on Wednesday (February 12, 2020) after hard-hit Hubei province reported 94 new deaths.

In its daily update, Hubei's health commission also confirmed another 1,638 new cases in the central province, where the outbreak emerged in December.

There are now more than 44,200 confirmed cases across China, based on previously released figures from the government.

The new virus is believed to have emerged last year in a market that sells wild animals in Hubei's capital Wuhan, the city at the centre of the outbreak.

The virus was officially named “COVID-19” at a conference in Geneva held by the World Health Organisation, where the body’s chief said countries had a chance of stopping its global spread.

WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Tuesday that although 99% of cases are in China, where it remains “very much an emergency,” it also “holds a very grave threat for the rest of the world.”

He urged countries to share data in order to further research the disease.

Chinese authorities dismissed two senior health officials from Hubei on Tuesday (February 11, 2020), where tens of millions of people have been under lockdown since late last month and tightened restrictions in its capital Wuhan. – **AFP, Beijing, February 12, 2020**