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Drugs smuggling serious issue: Ghani

OUR STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR - The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement David Johnson called on the NWFP Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani here at Governor's House on Tuesday.

David Johnson who was accompanied by Islamabad based US Deputy Chief of Mission Gerald Feierstein remained with the Governor for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest with special reference to the problem of narcotics production and its smuggling as well as its impact on overall law and order situation, especially in the region.

Talking on this occasion, the

Governor highlighted the tremendous achievements of the Government in its efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation and said, "Though we have been maintaining the level of our successes in our country in this respect, the narcotics smuggling from across the border still remains a serious issue".

In this connection, he particularly mentioned the war against terrorism and extremism and said the narcotics smuggling from across the border had also been found as one of the major funding lines for militants in the country.

The Governor also mentioned the contribution of USAID-funded projects in providing alternate means of

employment in the poppy growing areas and said that highly positive impact was emerged in the respective areas. Responding to a point, he also conceded that there was need to continue the efforts vigorously at the international level to achieve the goal of ensuring drug free society.

Meanwhile, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Dr Shama Khalid called on NWFP Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani at Governor's House. She remained with the NWFP Governor for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest. Ghani congratulated Dr Shama on assuming the charge of the first Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan and wished her success in fulfilment of the responsibilities.