the paper, establishing him as a 'serious' cartoonist. Meanwhile he has brought out a number of graphic novels and continues to contribute with his nonpolitical cartoon strips.

In fact he is currently working on a two-part graphic novel – 'Mission Mars'. It involves futuristic timelines, an espionage mission in Mars, zombies, mutants etc.

So how did it all start?

With a father who was a book-worm, Sharier and his brothers grew up in an environment in which reading was a major source of entertainment. From classics, detective novels, science fiction and of course, comics, Sharier was a voracious reader. Comics though, had a particular attraction for the artistic minded child and the lure of Disney Comics, Marvel Comics, Harvey Comics, Archies and Mad Magazine could not be resisted. Later, during his teens Asterix and Tin Tin became major influences.

Sharier cannot recall exactly when he started drawing cartoons though he does remember making his first 'comic book' when he was merely six or seven.

"Those were kiddy action stuff—but like any comic book I made a cover and drew panels of actions inside" says Sharier. "At that age, I could draw



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sharier Khan and Shishir Bhattacharjee during the exhibition's inauguration.

