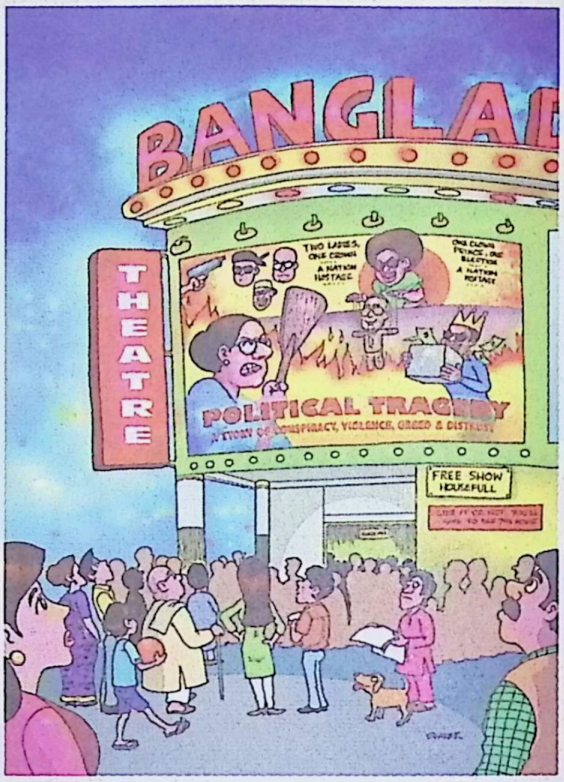
cartoonish faces within seconds—but I could never draw a portrait (till now)."

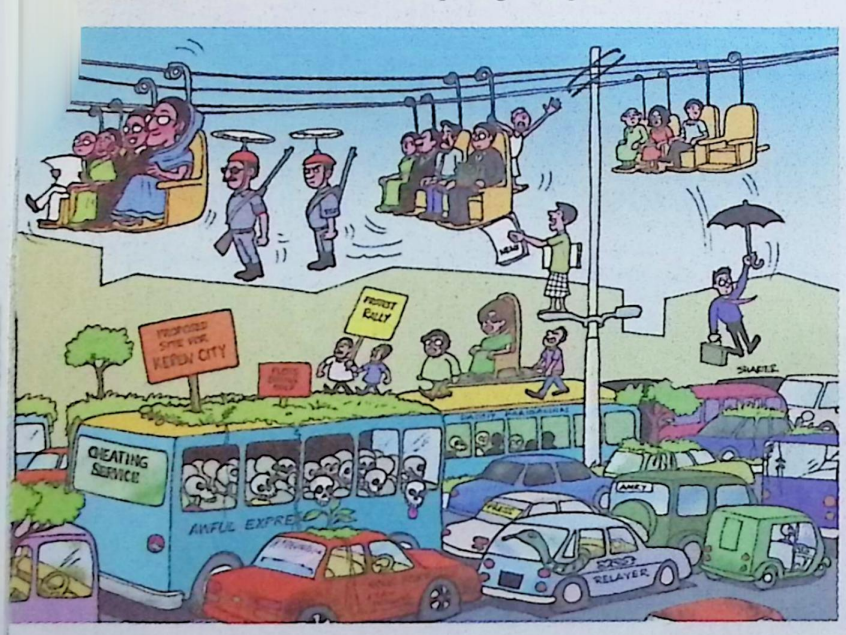
It was also the time when he delved into writing detective 'novels' which were only about three to four pages long! "My first superhero was born with a name 'Negative'—I don't know why I named him Negative. Though those projects were nonsense and always incomplete—they had an impact on my brothers and my friends—who also began making their own comic books for a while. It was all a creative game."

During his teen years Sharier switched to funny cartoons as action comics would take a long time to finish: "With gags, I can finish one story in one page."

From an artistic point of view, Sharier's cartoons are flawless and always aesthetically pleasing. With a natural flair for drawing, Sharier admits that he was hugely influenced by Jack Kirby's impressive depiction of action heroes and later inspired by Hergé (creator of Tin Tin) and Don Martin (Mad).

The collection at this exhibition reveals the cartoonist's talent as an artist as well as his keen observation as a journalist. 'It's all about the chair' shows two irate leading ladies – they both want the chair but one is setting fire to it, using the public as fuel while the other is sitting on it and fanning the fire. It is one of Sharier's most talked about cartoons. The culture of parliament boycott by whoever is in the opposition is aptly depicted in a cartoon of the two women leaders and their men competing in a sporting event – 'Parliament Boycott Tournament' - Khaleda Zia wins this round while her opponent Sheikh Hasina says 'I'll beat you next time'. Well known caricatures created by the cartoonist includes 'Clown Prince' and 'Yesuddin', both based on important players in politics.





What is most delightful about his cartoons is the detailing that goes into each one. In 'Future of Dhaka' – perhaps one of the few non-political cartoons in the exhibition- a myriad of themes are included: Dhaka city, still in the grips of impossible gridlocks, has had to adapt to the extreme: VIPs travel in cable cars and the only greenery seen is on top of buses and other vehicles. Those travelling on 'Awful Express' bus services are as good as dead, in fact, they have been reduced to skull and bones. Even protest rallies by the opposition have to take place on the roofs of vehicles as there is just no more space to even walk.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated by artist and cartoonist Shishir Battacharjee, consists of a limited edition of prints of the cartoons as well as original pen and paper drawings.

Finding humour in harsh reality is a tough job. But it is something that comes naturally to Sharier. Through these cartoons Sharier exposes the inefficiency of our leaders and the insanity of poor governance. But more than that they give a hint of who Sharier Khan is - an incorrigible humourist with an irresistible urge to laugh and make others laugh with him.

The exhibition will go on until June 27th at Galleri Kaya, House 20, Road 16, Sector 4, Uttara.