



Dublar Char, a beautiful island, is located at the southern end of the Sunderbans and faces the Bay of Bengal

They are engaged in building makeshift houses, sorting fishes, washing and drying nets, cooking, cleaning the fishing boats procuring firewood, carrying loads and packaging.

Home to a thriving seasonal fishing industry Dublar Char and its neighbouring small islands are also temporary homes to hundreds of child workers. Organized gangs either traffic or lure them to these islands which include Dublar Char, Aler Kol, Meher Ali, Tiar Char and Dimer Char in Rangabali area in Bagerhat. The workers including children are forced to work day and night in inhuman conditions to keep the

seasonal fishing and fish processing industry running for about five months. "We had no fixed place, no bed or pillow and even no time to sleep," stated Tariqul Islam, a fisherman. These islands are not easily accessible because of their remoteness, bad communication and lack of security. Once captured and taken to these islands, the children do not have any scope to escape other than to work hard. They are forced to do the most hazardous

tasks in the industry. They are engaged in building makeshift houses, sorting fishes, washing and drying nets, cooking, cleaning the fishing boats, procuring firewood, carrying loads and packaging. Despite their hard work for months, these children virtually get nothing in return.

Photo & text: Mumem Wasif / DrikNEWS

