DEEMED fit by doctors after she overcame mental illness, the biological mother of the baby, the centre of a custody battle, said on Wednesday that she is thrilled. “Mujhe meri baat maal gaya, main bahut khush hun,” she said after the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) ordered the foster parents to hand over the baby to her on Monday. “Mera baby abhi so raha hai, I will not let him get separated from me,” she said. She has returned with her father from Dongri to the Shradha Rehabilitation Centre in Borivali, where she was treated and has been staying for the past year. — POS

‘I am witness to the mother’s transformation in the past year, from being a psychiatric patient to being fit today. I have been accompanying her and this is a miracle’ Farzana Ansari, social worker

‘This is the power and victory of truth. I want people to spread the truth that the mentally ill have rights. They have more emotional needs than a common man, and no one can deprive them of the same.’

Dr Sanjay Kumavat, senior consulting psychiatrist and founder-director, Mental Health, Maharashtra, said, “It is our responsibility to protect the rights of people.”

This woman with her father after they got her son back, (inset) mid-day’s Dec 5 report

‘A win for the rights of the mentally ill’

Experts hail the order to give baby back to biological mother; rehab centre which helped her get well to continue providing support

Continued from Page 1

MID-DAY had highlighted the case of the woman, who hails from Bilhar in a December 5 report. She overcame mental illness under Sanam Maghaye Award winner Dr Bharat Vatwani, who not only saved her daughter’s life but also ensured the baby got the best possible care. “It is a miracle,” said the woman’s father, Farzana Ansari, the social worker who had been with the woman since her admission at the rehabilitation centre last year, said, “If I could witness the transformation of this baby in the past year, from being a psychiatric patient to being physically and mentally fit, then I am the happiest man on earth.”

Dr Vatwani, founder, Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation, said, “This is the power and victory of truth. I want people to spread the truth that the mentally ill have rights. They have more emotional needs than a common man, and no one can deprive them of the same.”

“You cannot walk over the human rights and dignity of the mentally ill, nor extinguish their desire to love and be loved,” Dr Vatwani said. “It is not just the mother and child for some time and then they are clinically evaluated, we will send them home. We will provide the mother with the required medicines. Our responsibility towards them is everlasting,” Dr Vatwani said.

‘Victory of the mentally ill’

Dr Sanjay Kumavat, senior consulting psychiatrist and founder-director, Mental Health, Maharashtra, said, “It is our responsibility to protect the rights of people.”

This is the power and victory of truth. I want people to spread the truth that the mentally ill have rights. They have more emotional needs than a common man, and no one can deprive them of the same.

CWC speaks

Mildred Biswal, chairman, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Mumbai City I, said, “The four-member CWC committee unanimously decided and