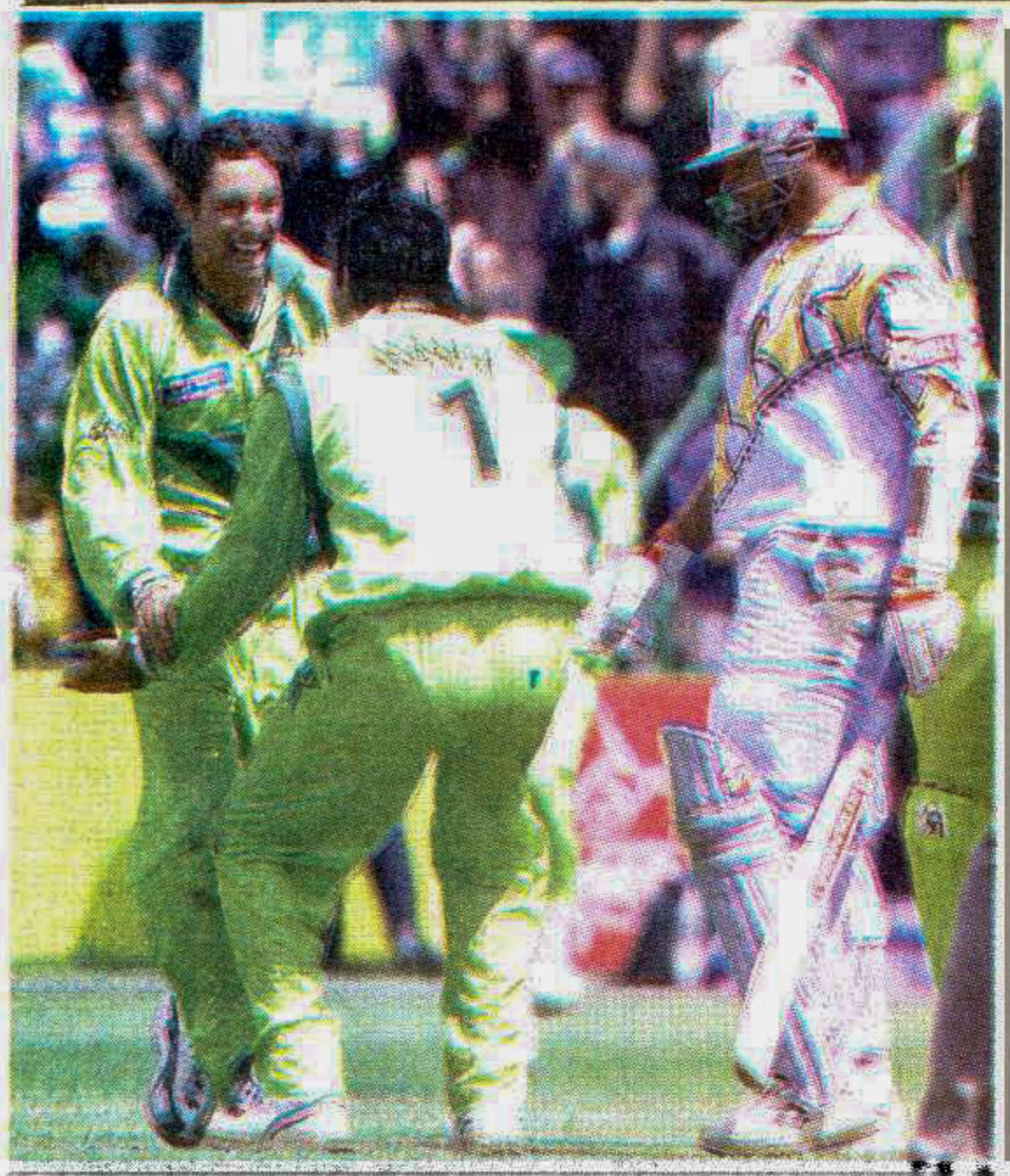


# TOSHIBA TV FOR THE LATEST & THE BEST

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Shahid Afridi (L) is being congratulated by his captain Wasim Akram after catching Rahul Dravid. — AFP photo

## All-conquering Klusener

LONDON, June 8 (Reuters/Internet): For a cricketer who acknowledges he is publicity-shy, Lance Klusener is ironically spending a lot of his time in the World Cup spotlight.

The South African left-handed batsman and right-arm fast medium bowler is the tournament's leading all-rounder, and the value of his deeds is reflected in four man-of-the-match awards in six games.

Klusener's decisive 46 not out off 41 deliveries in his team's three-wicket victory over Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Saturday earned the latest award, thrusting him again under the media microscope and into the public eye.

His thunderous hitting has heightened his appeal to crowds around the country as well as helping South Africa win matches when they are up against it, as he did in characteristically forthright style at Trent Bridge.

When Klusener appeared at Saturday's news conference after his heroics against Pak-

istan, his captain Hansie Cronje caused laughter by saying with mock seriousness: "We're making it harder and harder for Lance, we're seeing how far we can push him."

Klusener meets a crisis fearlessly, and reputations count for nothing, but he is also a thinking cricketer as he showed when batting with Jacques Kallis during the run chase against the Pakistanis.

"I said to Jacques we must try to do it with an over to spare," Klusener said, "because we will then still have six balls if we don't get it quite right."

Well might he add: "It worked out perfectly."

South Africa reached their target of 221 with exactly one over left.

Klusener has now scored 210 runs from six innings in the tournament without being dismissed, giving him a world record sequence for one-day internationals of 396 runs without losing his wicket. Pakistan's Javed Miandad held the

See page 14

See page 14

See page 14

See page 14



Fans at Old Trafford hang a banner with messages for world peace written on it. — AFP photo

## Wet summer shock

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 8 (Reuters/Internet report): New Zealand's World Cup programme was upset by English summer rain again on Tuesday but they remain confident ahead of the Super Six game with tournament favourites South Africa on Thursday.

The Kiwis had to settle for one point from their opening second round game against Zimbabwe after the Headingley match was abandoned on Monday's second day because of rain.

The Kiwis now need a victory at Edgbaston on Thursday to underpin their hopes of a place in the semifinals. They were unable to hold a practice ses-

sion outdoors on Tuesday because of the weather and the players went indoors for nets.

Captain Stephen Fleming said the New Zealanders had got the rain-hit match in Leeds, which they were well set to win, out of their system.

"There is nothing you can do about it. We got a point out of it which is positive," he said. "We have got a lot of information about the South Africans. We have played pretty well against them but we have to be well prepared."

Coach Steve Rixon added: "If you are thinking about the last result you can't give your best for the next challenge... The players are confident. They are in very good shape."

See page 14

See page 14