

THE DIRECTORY

YOUR GUIDE THROUGH THE BEST IN MEN'S LIFESTYLE

Stand out at the Dubai World Cup



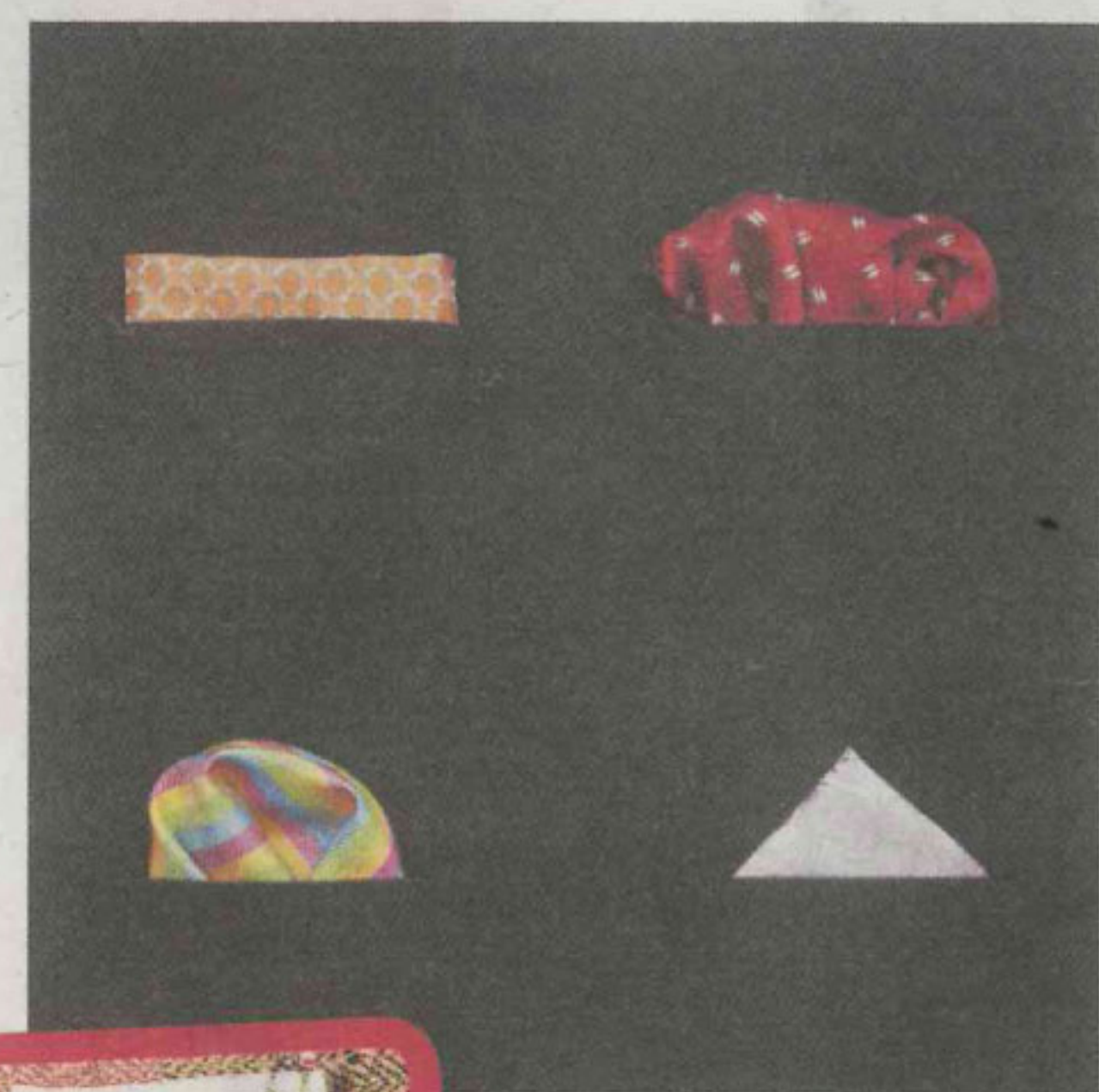
tabloid!'s ultimate guide to how to do one of the UAE's biggest events in style

By **Mahir Ali**,
Special to tabloid!

The Dubai World Cup, the world's richest horserace, is coming on March 29, and the action's not going to be limited to the Meydan Racecourse. A day at the races is all the inspiration anyone needs to add a stylish suit to the wardrobe. So if you haven't planned your look yet, here's our selection of 10 tips that are sure to turn heads.



1 Ditch the boring tie and opt for a chic silk cravat — it makes an incredible, brighter alternative and can relieve you from the closed-top button. The revelry spans six hours and starts around mid-afternoon, so it can get too hot for a neck-tie.



2 Pocket squares have made a comeback and there are many ways in which these colourful pieces of cloth can uplift the entire look. You can wear them in different ways — either the minimalistic straight line peeping out from the breast pocket of the suit or a more flamboyant fluffed-up look. But pay some attention to how the colour of the pocket-square complements the colour of your eyes.

3 Don't shy away from pulling off a hat-trick. Whether it's a classic Trilby hat, a top hat, a chic fedora or a Boater straw-hat, the races are an occasion where men won't be out of place in a hat.



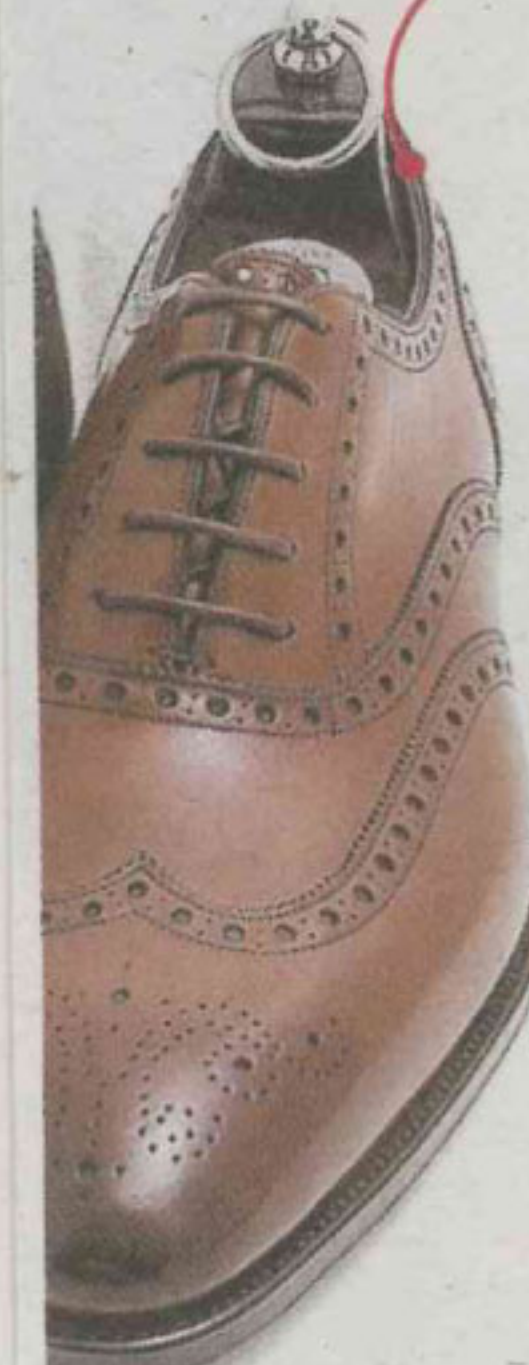
4 Bow-ties are a fun accessory to express yourself with. They suit a slimmer frame, but there can be a fine line between looking quirky and comedic. So be sure that you get the opinion of someone who will tell it like it is before you step out in a bow-tie. You can opt for classic silk jacquard or mesh bow-ties. The fun is in wearing one that you tie, instead of a strap-on version of this timeless accessory.



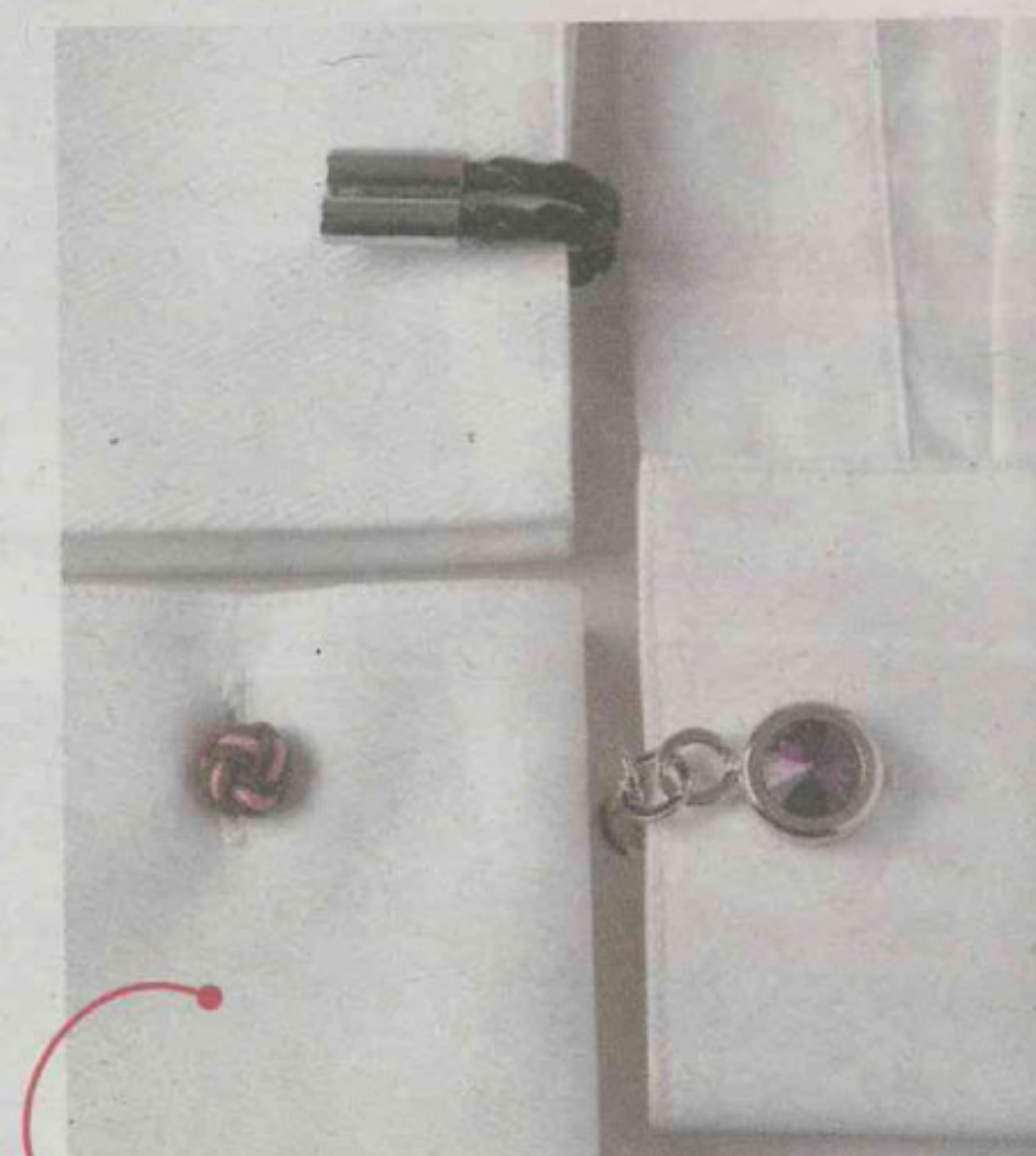
Photos courtesy Ascots & Chapels

7 Footwear can present a daunting number of options for the races. From slip-on brogues or colourful loafers, to classic oxford shoes, you can sport any pair without going wrong. Our favourites happen to be two-tone wing tip shoes. The tones need to be coordinated to compliment your suit. For a beige day-suit, you can use a tan and beige, while darker suits call for a more subtle contrast. Be careful to look for an artistically crafted piece with an emphasis on the 'W' shape of the toe-cap which will extend to the heel.

8 Colour can be incorporated on to the footwear through using quirky, colourful shoelaces and socks. These are often the easiest ways to customise one's footwear and a bold experiment with colours is definitely recommended. A bright orange can be a great colour for laces on tan or brown shoes, whilst turquoise or blue will liven up a black shoe.



5 Have fun with your lapels — while slimmer lapels are in, even the tiniest lapel pin can add an element of colour that can break the monotony, especially if you've chosen a darker-coloured suit. Experiment with one of the colours of the season — either a vibrant turquoise or a coral.



6 Scarves are another versatile accessory — they can be worn with a tuxedo and bow-tie on more formal occasions and work equally well to add a dash of colour. For the races, feel free to experiment with small prints or equine motifs.

9 Cuff-links are another accessory that present an array of options — fabric or felt, leather or sterling silver, embellished with gem stones. They can be a true reflection of one's personality. But try to keep them fuss-free and maintain clean lines. Another metallic accessory that is often not visible is a pair of collar stiffeners. They are a must-have at the races because you're wearing the shirt in the outdoors for more than six hours.

10 Watches are accessories that men are often most passionate about. They are indulgences that add to the luxury of owning something that has been perfectly crafted and precisely engineered. At the races, wear a pocket watch if you happen to have one in the family.

Mahir Ali is the artistic director and head of operations at Dubai bespoke tailors Ascots & Chapels. Go to ascotsandchapels.com.

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