



Toppmeyer: Why a 24-team playoff is fool's gold

SPORTS, 7A

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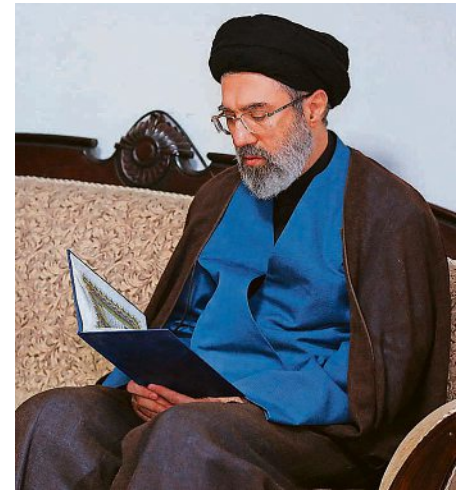
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Oil prices soar as Iran names leader



People gather to support Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader, in Tehran, Iran, on March 9. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS



Mojtaba Khamenei's appointment marks the first time since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution that the role of supreme leader has moved from father to son. PROVIDED BY OFFICE OF THE IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER VIA REUTERS

Younger Khamenei has long had ties to power

New supreme leader has influence within security forces

James Powell
USA TODAY

Iran's Assembly of Experts picked Mojtaba Khamenei on March 9 to succeed his late father as supreme leader. The body of 88 clerics was charged with choosing the new leader after Ali Khamenei was killed Feb. 28 in the strikes that ignited the ongoing U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Mojtaba Khamenei, a mid-ranking cleric with influence within Iran's security forces and vast business networks

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Pentagon identifies 7th service member killed

Thao Nguyen, Christopher Cann, Kim Hjelmgard and Dan Morrison
USA TODAY

As the U.S.-Israel war with Iran entered its 10th day on March 9, oil prices soared over fears of a prolonged conflict, President Donald Trump demanded "unconditional surrender" and the Pen-

tagon made public the name of the seventh U.S. service member to die in the conflict. Oil prices jumped above \$110 a barrel, reaching its highest prices since 2022 as fears grow over prolonged shipping disruptions due to war throughout the Middle East. Brent crude, the international benchmark, jumped to \$119.50 a barrel before retreating to around

\$103. Trump called that "a small price to pay."

"Short term oil prices, which will drop rapidly when the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over, is a very small price to pay for U.S.A., and World, Safety and Peace," Trump said in a social media post, adding, "ONLY FOOLS WOULD THINK DIFFERENTLY!"

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Civil rights veterans see familiar repression

Crackdown on migrants evokes painful memories

Hannan Adely
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal immigration agents in military gear roam city streets, wielding tear gas, pepper spray and firearms against protesters. They forcibly enter homes to make warrantless arrests. Bystanders who record enforcement actions are swept up and detained.

To veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, the scenes are painfully familiar, echoing the times they were beaten, harassed, detained and surveilled while fighting for their rights.

"We know this kind of repression," said Lawrence Hamm, 71, founder and

chair of People's Organization for Progress in Newark, New Jersey. "It was used against us in the civil rights and Black Power movements."

For Hamm, the sight of rifle-carrying officers on city streets evokes memories of 1967, when the National Guard was sent into Newark after White police officers detained and beat a Black taxi driver, igniting days of unrest. Guardsmen blocked streets with tanks, conducted searches and enforced a curfew. Twenty-six people were killed, most at the hands of the National Guard.

"They shot people who didn't have anything to do with riots," Hamm said.

Although the tactics are not unprecedented, activists like Hamm say the scope of these actions today – from the deployment of troops to the defiance of

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Nathaniel Briggs, of Teaneck, New Jersey, whose family sued to challenge school segregation in South Carolina, saw firsthand how those in power could defy the courts in ways that undermine constitutional rights.

ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

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