

**UK'S EU REFERENDUM KEY ARGUMENTS**

From immigration to sovereignty, here are the main battleground topics as Britain voted yesterday whether to stay in or leave the EU.

**IMMIGRATION**  
**LEAVE:** Those who want to leave the EU say Britain should be able to limit the number of migrants coming from the European Union through a points-based selection system. They are particularly worried about the pressure on public services like schools, hospitals and access to doctors created by mass immigration. There are also concerns about migrants who claim welfare and the pressure on housing. Net migration to Britain hit 333,000 in 2015 -- 3,000 short of the 2014 record. Some 270,000 EU citizens moved to Britain for at least 12 months last year.

**REMAIN:** Those in favour of staying argue that EU migrants contribute more to the economy in taxes than they cost. They say that since they are young, they often do not place an undue strain on public services. EU migrants contribute 34 percent more than they receive from the state, according to 2013 research conducted at University College London. Prime Minister David Cameron has secured a deal meaning in-work welfare for new EU immigrants will be limited for their first four years if Britain remains in the bloc.

**ECONOMY**  
**LEAVE:** Out campaigners say leaving the EU would mean Britain would no longer have to pay its contribution to its budget -- estimated at almost £8.5 billion (11 billion euros) last year. Britain could seek a bespoke trading relationship with the EU and strike trade deals with growing markets like China and India, they say.

**REMAIN:** In campaigners say EU membership means a stronger economy creating jobs, trade and investment. Some 45 percent of all British exports go to the EU and three million jobs in Britain are linked to trade in Europe, they argue. They say Britain would still have to pay for access to the single market if it wanted to remain inside.

**SOVEREIGNTY**  
**LEAVE:** Britain would no longer have to abide by laws created in Brussels, campaigners say. Other states could not force through decisions against London's wishes and Britain would not have to abide by the European Court of Justice, they claim.

**REMAIN:** Leaving the EU would undermine Britain's standing in the world and could increase the likelihood of Scottish independence, campaigners argue. As part of his reform package, Cameron has secured a commitment that Britain would not be bound by the EU drive for ever-closer union.

**REGULATION**  
**LEAVE:** Brussels imposes too much red tape on British business, according to the Leave camp, which says the top 100 regulations cost Britain's economy more than £33 billion a year. If Britain leaves the EU, unburdened businesses, particularly small ones, would have more freedom to make their own decisions.

**REMAIN:** The Remain camp claims that if Britain left the EU, it would be bad for businesses as markets would be shaken by the uncertainty and it could take years to strike new trade arrangements with the EU.



Britons vote in a crunch referendum on the European Union in various part of Britain yesterday. Millions have defied wet weather to queue in torrential rain and even waded through deep water to vote in yesterday's historic EU referendum as a final poll revealed the result is on a knife edge. The vote could tear up the island nation's EU membership and spark the greatest emergency of the bloc's 60-year history.

**Anger, confusion as vote divides UK**

AFP, London  
 Breaking down in tears, Anthony Dunn recalled being branded a traitor and told he should leave the country for campaigning for Britain to stay in the European Union ahead of Thursday's vote.

After a campaign filled with confusing and often misleading claims, the 58-year-old Londoner is among many Britons horrified at the way the run-up to the historic referendum has divided their society.

"The most shocking thing about this entire referendum is how deeply personal it has become and how immensely hurtful," Dunn told AFP after attending a television debate.

Shaking with anger, he blamed Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives, who pressed for the referendum and have led the rival campaigns. "I am appalled at what the Tories have done to this country. They are ripping us apart," he said.

Both sides of the EU debate have accused each other of lies and scaremongering, dubbing each other "Project Fear" and "Project Hate" respectively, and both were criticised by independent bodies for misrepresenting facts.

The often aggressive tone of the debate has caused disquiet in many quarters, particularly after the murder of pro-European lawmaker Jo Cox last week, but political analysts are expecting a high turnout.

Passions are high as the debate has focused on two key issues -- the risk that leaving could cause an economic shock, or the unwelcome prospect of further mass migration from other EU coun-

tries if Britain stays in the bloc. Britons in general have no great love of the EU and for most people in the past decade it has been a side issue.

Research by Ipsos Mori published this month found significant misconceptions on issues such as the level of EU inward investment -- which was underestimated -- to the numbers of EU citizens living in Britain -- strongly overestimated.

Things are not helped by the fact that the main political parties are themselves divided on the referendum.

Amid the confusion there is also concern about the divisive impact of the campaign, in particular the relentless focus on immigration of those backing a Brexit.

The Daily Mirror, which supports a "Remain" vote, has described it as "the most divisive, vile and unpleasant political campaign in living memory".

The murder of Jo Cox, a passionate pro-European who had campaigned for Syrian refugees, brought only a temporary respite in the campaign.

A YouGov poll this week found that 50 percent of the public -- and 70 percent of "Remain" voters -- thought the referendum had made British society more divided.

"There has been lots of confusing information and anecdotes and lies, which I don't appreciate," said Chet Patel, a 44-year-old telecoms worker in London who wants to stay in.

"I think a lot of people have not understood the real issues in fact. And hence they are not sure which way to vote."

"It has become very negative and quite focused



PROJECT FEAR AND PROJECT HATE  
 Polling experts say the campaign has in fact made little difference to public opinion on which way to vote, with the polls close since January with a few brief exceptions.

A Sky News online poll on Wednesday found that 75 percent of respondents did not think the campaigns had been helpful, with 40 percent even saying they had been actively unhelpful.

Sara Hobolt, a professor in European studies at the London School of Economics, said few voters would have been enlightened by the campaign.

"It has become very negative and quite focused

**EU faces big changes, with or without UK**

AFP, Brussels  
 The atmosphere in Brussels has been surreal for weeks -- business goes on as usual, officials are barred from using the word "Brexit" and life proceeds as if Britain's EU referendum does not exist.

But this phoney calm belies the fact that, whether Britons vote to leave or remain, the European Union will have to make some of the biggest changes in its history in order to survive.

If Britain becomes the first member state to leave the EU, it could trigger the beginning of the end for a beleaguered union mired in a migration crisis, economic woes and a growing threat of terrorism.

Even if it stays, the status quo will not be an option, with the questions raised by Britain's referendum reverberating around a continent that is losing faith in the post-war European dream.

"Whatever its result is going to be, we must take a long hard look at the future of the union. We would be foolish if we ignored such a warning signal as the UK referendum," EU President Donald Tusk warned this week.

A British exit will plunge the EU into years of bitter divorce negotiations between Brussels and London, although in some quarters at least there are hopes it will at least let the rest of the bloc get on with its work.

That may be easier said than done. If Britain remains in the EU, Prime Minister David Cameron has already warned that he will return to Brussels to push for more reform on freedom of movement on top of the renegotiation deal that he secured in February.

Free movement is a core EU value and Britain will face severe opposition. More likely are changes to the rules of the Schengen passport-free area, which has already been semi-dismantled by Europe's migration crisis.

AFP, LONDON



**Turkey may stage UK-style referendum**

AFP, Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has suggested Turkey could hold a referendum over whether to continue its long-stalled accession process to join the European Union.

Angrily lashing out at the bloc's treatment of Ankara, Erdogan said Turkey could hold a referendum along the lines of the plebescite in Britain, where voters are deciding Thursday whether to stay in the European Union or leave.

A landmark deal agreed in March between Turkey and the EU was expected to calm tensions and give new momentum to the Turkish membership bid. But the EU is insisting it cannot grant Turkey the key sweetener of visa-free travel to the Schengen area if it does not narrow the scope of its anti-terror laws, something Ankara has refused to do.

Erdogan said Turkey had been promised membership in 1963 but 53 years later nothing had happened. Accusing the Christian-dominated EU of religious bias, he said: "Hey EU! You are just not going to agree to accept us because the big majority of our people are Muslims."



Democratic members of the House staging a sit-in on the House floor "to demand action on common sense gun legislation" on Capitol Hill in Washington, United States, on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

**US SC halts Obama's immigration plan**

AFP, Washington  
 The US Supreme Court blocked President Barack Obama's bid to shield millions of migrants from deportation on Thursday and thrust the charged issue to the frontline of the battle to succeed him.

Justices in the under-strength court were split 4-4 over Obama's bid to change immigration policy by executive action, thus leaving lower court rulings blocking the effort in place. Obama dubbed the ruling "heart-breaking for the millions of immigrants who made their lives here" but warned his opponents they will not be able to thwart their dreams for much longer.

"In November, Americans have to make a decision about what we care about and who we are," he declared, in a nod to the White House race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. The court normally has nine members, but Justice Antonin Scalia died in February and the Senate has refused to vote on Obama's nominee, appeals court

judge Merrick Garland, to replace him. The deadlock leaves Obama's immigration policy in limbo, like the fate of four million undocumented immigrants who stood to be given US work permits under the politically controversial plan. Frustrated by Congress's repeated failure to pass immigration reform, in November 2014, Obama issued a decree to allow migrants whose children are legally resident to apply for permits. This would have shielded the families from deportation while the politically-charged issue of their status is determined, but the governors of 26 Republican-led states challenged the order. Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers pushing for tougher US gun control laws after the Orlando nightclub massacre ended a stunning 24-hour sit-in at Congress yesterday. But they vowed to return with renewed vigor when the legislature comes back from a two-week recess on July 5, and said they had mustered much popular support for their cause in a country with an epidemic of gun violence.

**German offer to concede 1966 goal if UK votes 'In'**

AFP, Berlin

Germany's top-selling newspaper Bild made a last-ditch plea for Britons to stay in the EU yesterday, promising to finally concede England's long-disputed 1966 World Cup goal if they vote "Remain".

Bild also said it would "no longer make any jokes about Prince Charles' ears", "stop using sunscreen out of solidarity with your sunburn," and "not field a goalkeeper for the next penalties, to make it more exciting" - if Britain keeps its faith with the European Union.

"Dear Britons, if you stay in the EU, we will recognise the Wembley goal ourselves!" read the daily's front-page headline as the United Kingdom began voting in the knife-edge referendum that could end its EU membership.

The goal was one of the most controversial in World Cup history. In the 1966 final between England and West Germany, both sides were tied at 2-2 when England striker Geoff Hurst fired a shot in extra time.

The ball hit the underside of the crossbar and bounced off the ground before being cleared by West German defenders, and the referee was uncertain if it had crossed the goal-line.

The linesman however determined that it did, and the goal was awarded to England, to West Germany's dismay. England went on to win the match 4-2.



Voters in EU referendum pass floral tributes to murdered MP Jo Cox in Batley, northern England yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

The fear in many European capitals is that either way, the result could trigger a domino effect of referendums in other countries.

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen on Tuesday urged all EU states to follow Britain's example, and eurosceptics in the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden have made similar calls for referendums.

Tusk has warned that a British leave vote could lead to the "destruction of not only the EU but also of Western political civilisation."

Bickerton said it would unlikely be a "terminal blow", given the core role of the EU in much of European political life, but that it would herald a fundamental change and a move towards a far looser kind of union.

"I don't think it would suddenly disappear but over the longer term we might see it slowly decline and become something different," he said.

"The EU is in a negative spiral."

**Youth Campaign for Earthquake Preparedness**

Do you want to make a big difference? Calling all the youth across Bangladesh to form teams and compete in the Bangladesh's first earthquake innovation challenge. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh (UNDP) is presenting this exciting opportunity for young talents interested in earthquake preparedness.

Form your team and compete for one of the two exciting challenge funds where prizes are waiting for you. Compete by creating, designing, presenting a proposal for either a 'Shake It' preparedness app (Challenge Fund One) or a 'Cracks in the Campus' preparedness campaign (Challenge Fund Two).

For guidelines and information to participate, go to [www.bd.undp.org/yepec](http://www.bd.undp.org/yepec) or email us at [yepec.bd@undp.org](mailto:yepec.bd@undp.org)

**Submission deadline is Monday, August 15, 2016, by 12:00 noon local time via [yepec.bd@undp.org](mailto:yepec.bd@undp.org)**