**RCEP NEGOCIATORS IN AUSTRALIA:** A 26th negotiating round for the mega RCEP (ASEAN + Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea & NZ) has begun in Melbourne as negotiators seek to accelerate the slow progress surrounding the deal. China and India met recently in a bid to remove specific roadblocks.

**US LOSING OUT IN THAILAND:** A US Foreign Agricultural Service report suggests US farmers are losing $US283 million annually because of Thai FTAs with other countries. While bulk farm commodity trade is largely unaffected, the report says the FTAs have reduced exports of US consumer agricultural products.

**TRUMP TO MEET XI IN OSAKA:** President Trump has confirmed he will meet with President Xi when they gather in Osaka for the G20 Summit later this week. Following a lengthy telephone call with Xi during the week, Trump said both parties wanted a trade deal, “but it has to be a good deal for everybody.”

**AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR “COOL HEADS” ON TRADE:** Treasurer Frydenberg has called for “cool heads” in the global trade arena saying trade tensions between the US and China were weighing on the global economic outlook. He repeated Australia’s call for a strengthening of the rules-based trading system.

**US DUMPING DUTIES FOR GAS CYLINDERS:** US Commerce Department is seeking big anti-dumping and subsidy duties for steel propane cylinders from China and Thailand. It is proposing dumping duties of 10% to 108% and subsidy duties of 37% to 142% on China-made gas tanks. A final ruling is due in August.

**BUSINESS LEADER FOR APEC 2021:** New Zealand had appointed Barbara Chapman as chair of the CEO Summit Committee for APEC 2021. A former chief executive of ASB Bank, Chapman will play a key role in APEC 2021 which is to be the largest event ever hosted by the New Zealand Government.

**INDIA TAKES SWIPE AT US:** India has responded to its exclusion from a US tariff preference scheme by hiking tariffs on US goods. The tariff hike is to be implemented on June 30 and covers 28 items including a range of fruit and produce. The tariff hike was threatened for some time but regularly postponed.

**RAILWAY WHEELS CONTINUE TO TURN SLOWLY:** Australian Industry Minister Andrews has again postponed a decision whether to impose anti-dumping duties on railway wheels from China and France. She said, in an Anti-Dumping Notice, special circumstances required a further time extension till July 15.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUSTRALIAN COMPLAINT:** A WTO Dispute Panel considering a complaint by Australia against Canadian provincial laws on the sale of imported wine will hold part of its deliberations in public. Its public hearings are due in mid-July. Australia first queried the laws in January 2018.

**INDONESIA LAUNCHES SAFEGUARD INQUIRY:** Indonesia has launched a safeguard investigation on imported evaporators for use in refrigerators and freezers. A safeguard investigation seeks to determine whether increased imports threaten a domestic industry. It can lead to special tariffs being imposed.