

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 17/10/2026) Solution

¹ C	U	² R	D	³ L	E			⁴ M	O	⁵ P	I	⁶ S	H	
U		E		I		⁷ D		A		A		T		⁸ V
⁹ T	A	P	A	S		¹⁰ I	N	S	E	N	S	A	T	E
U		R		T		S		S		O		T		S
¹¹ P	R	O	T	E	S	T		¹² P	E	R	S	I	S	T
		V		D		R		R		A		O		M
¹³ A	P	E	X		¹⁴ R	E	C	O	M	M	E	N	C	E
C				¹⁵ C		S		D		A				N
¹⁶ R	E	¹⁷ A	C	H	E	S	O	U	T		¹⁸ B	¹⁹ A	H	T
O		I		E		S		C		²⁰ N		S		
²¹ B	A	R	A	S	S	I		²² T	R	A	D	I	N	²³ G
A		R		S		G		I		U		N		E
²⁴ T	E	A	R	S	I	N	T	O		²⁵ S	W	I	F	T
S		C		E		A		N		E		N		A
	²⁶ M	E	N	T	A	L			²⁷ L	A	M	E	N	T

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 CURDLE	Clot formed by last drop of blood in ruptured ulcer (6)	bloo(D) inside anagram of ULCER
4 MOISH	Listless cleaner is employed by hospital (6)	MOP + IS + H
9 TAPAS	Knock, for instance, Spanish snacks (5)	TAP + AS
10 INSENSATE	Unfeeling elected politicians finally entering house (9)	IN + [politician(S) inside SENATE]
11 PROTEST	Rubbish aired in nuisance's public demonstration (7)	ROT inside PEST
12 PERSIST	Sharks' frontrunner is tackled by forward last (7)	[(S)harks + IS] inside PERT
13 APEX	Point made by a former lover after power (4)	A + (EX after P)
14 RECOMMENCE	Millions the writer invested in record once to make a fresh start (10)	(M + ME) inside (REC + ONCE)
16 REACHES OUT	Extends the arms and touches ear awkwardly (7,3)	Anagram of TOUCHES EAR
18 BAHT	Club accepting hard Asian currency (4)	BAT outside H
21 BARASSI	Foolish person, one at the end of bar, is an Aussie Rules legend (7)	(ASS + I) after BAR
22 TRADING	Art sent back with little damage is in the marketplace (7)	ART reversed + DING
24 TEARS INTO	One artist out of control attacks violently (5,4)	Anagram of ONE ARTIST
25 SWIFT	Reel for winding yarn was originally secured by bolt (5)	(W)as inside SIFT
26 MENTAL	Mad people shortened story (6)	MEN + TAL(e)
27 LAMENT	Unconvincing part of bible, a tale of woe (6)	LAME + NT

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 CUT-UP	Trade union involved in competition is annoyed (3-2)	TU inside CUP
2 REPROVE	Veteran, inside, always recalled censure (7)	PRO inside (EVER reversed)
3 LISTED	Leaned over and completed a roll (6)	Double Definition
4 MASS PRODUCTION	Large-scale manufacture affected components of poor music stand (4,10)	Anagram of POOR MUSIC STAND
5 PANORAMA	Comprehensive survey work not restricted in a South American republic? (8)	w)OR(K inside PANAMA
6 STATION	Doctor's immediately operating after one appointment (7)	STAT + (ON after I)
7 DISTRESS SIGNAL	Unsettled lass is resting after doctor's initial call for help (8,6)	Anagram of LASS IS RESTING after (D)octor
8 VESTMENT	Ceremonial garment taken from tomb, oddly used in different events (8)	(T)o(M)b inside anagram of EVENTS
13 ACROBATS	Top performers steal from one taking part in performances (8)	(ROB + A) inside ACTS
15 CHESS SET	He's in weird sects with men that normally sit on board (5,3)	HES inside anagram of SECTS
17 AIR-RACE	White people, say, losing initial flying competition (3-4)	(f)AIR + RACE
19 ASININE	Silly, like 1 + 9? (7)	AS + I + NINE
20 NAUSEA	Vomiting passengers in Cessna use antiemetics? (6)	cessNA USE Antiemetics
23 GET AT	Reach rickety gate ahead of time (3,2)	Anagram of GATE + T