

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 11/7/2026) Solution

¹ C	U	² T	N	³ O	I	⁴ C	E		⁵ S	⁶ C	R	⁷ I	P	⁸ T
O		Y		L		H		⁹ B		I		S		E
¹⁰ M	O	P	E	D		¹¹ A	D	R	E	N	A	L	I	N
E		I		G		P		I		E		A		A
¹² D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	D		¹³ M	I	M	I	C
O		A		O		E		L		A				I
	¹⁴ S	L	O	W	E	R		¹⁵ E	X	T	I	¹⁶ N	C	T
¹⁷ S		L		T						O		U		Y
¹⁸ P	S	Y	C	H	I	¹⁹ C		²⁰ S	I	G	H	T	S	
I				F		A		U		R		R		²¹ R
²² R	A	²³ M	B	O		²⁴ N	A	R	R	A	T	I	V	E
I		O		R		N		G		P		M		C
²⁵ T	H	R	E	E	S	O	M	E		²⁶ H	Y	E	N	A
E		A		S		N		O		E		N		P
²⁷ D	I	L	A	T	E		²⁸ I	N	G	R	A	T	E	S

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 CUT NO ICE	Rough count that is about 1 failed to impress (3,2,3)	Anagram of COUNT + (IE outside C)
5 SCRIPT	Drunken inspector ignoring one doctor's instruction (6)	Anagram of INSPECTOR minus ONE
10 MOPED	Light transport moved aimlessly (5)	Double Definition
11 ADRENALIN	A doctor recalled passage concerned with stimulating hormone (9)	A + DR + (LANE reversed) + IN
12 DECORATED	Company strike-breaker, involved in exploit, is given an award (9)	(CO + RAT) inside DEED
13 MIMIC	I am repeatedly taken aback by cold impressionist (5)	IM reversed twice + C
14 SLOWER	Small calf, say, is less intelligent (6)	S + LOWER
15 EXTINCT	Former partner, back to fight in court, is wiped out (7)	EX + figh(T) + IN + CT
18 PSYCHIC	Spy distracted smart clairvoyant (7)	Anagram of SPY + CHIC
20 SIGHTS	Landmarks and places so to speak (6)	Sounds like SITES
22 RAMBO	Sly character is right in front of emergency services worker (5)	R + AMBO
24 NARRATIVE	River rat featuring in simple story (9)	(R + RAT) inside NAIVE
25 THREESOME	Group of clubbers met heroes in strange circumstances? (9)	Anagram of MET HEROES
26 HYENA	Wild dog had briefly appeared outside Japanese capital (5)	(HA)d outside YEN
27 DILATE	Enlarge identification returned at the last minute (6)	ID reversed + LATE
28 INGRATES	King short of capital judges selfish people (8)	(k)ING + RATES

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 COMEDO	Show up and fix black spot (6)	COME + DO
2 TYPICALLY	Parking in city confused friend as a rule (9)	P inside anagram of CITY + ALLY
3 OLD-GROWTH FOREST	Woodland preserved for the world got badly infected with diseases ultimately (3-6,6)	Anagram of FOR THE WORLD GOT outside (D)iseases
4 CHAPTER	Male tenor missing out on backing part (7)	CHAP + [TENOR minus (ON reversed)]
6 CINEMATOGRAPHER	Shooter scrambled to manager entering secret code (15)	Anagram of TO MANAGER inside CIPHER
7 ISLAM	Religion is liturgy, primarily, and a mass (5)	IS + (L)iturgy + A + M
8 TENACITY	Web reflected a city's strength of will (8)	NET reversed + A + CITY
9 BRIDLE	Restrain newlywed crossing threshold of love-nest (6)	BRIDE outside (L)ovenest
16 NUTRIMENT	Triathlon men tucked into dry fruit for sustenance (9)	(TRI + MEN) inside NUT
17 SPIRITED	Lively insect's wings tied up by agitated spider? (8)	(I)nsec(T) inside anagram of SPIDER
19 CANNON	Big shot, smart, not totally active (6)	(CANN)y + ON
20 SURGEON	Wave on one heading for the operating theatre (7)	SURGE + ON
21 RECAPS	Builder's gap-filler, knocked over, runs through (6)	SPACER reversed
23 MORAL	Righteous human being short on time (5)	MORTAL minus T