

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 18/7/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 PILGRIMAGE	Part of a book about the Italian forbidding religious journey (10)	PAGE outside (IL + GRIM)
6 ACID	Bitter cold contracted by helper (4)	C inside AID
10 RUN-UP	Hastily make an approach (3-2)	Double Definition
11 STIMULANT	Arranged litmus test, initially after an exciting, vital action (9)	Anagram of LITMUS + [(T)est after AN]
12 OF ONE MIND	Agreed nothing with bad omen apparent in discovery (2,3,4)	O + (anagram of OMEN inside FIND)
13 TERSE	The dresser, in an odd way, is snappy (5)	(T)h(E) d(R)e(S)s(E)r
14 SEE HERE	Distracted sheepshearer not taking sharp look (3,4)	Anagram of SHEEPSHEARER minus SHARP
15 RAPT	Totally absorbed, right, and quick to learn? (4)	R + APT
18 ETCH	Eat into piece of bittersweet chocolate (4)	bittersweET CHocolate
20 DIORAMA	Small picturesque scene, one associated with love in play (7)	(I + O) inside DRAMA
23 APART	A light carriage returned in pieces (5)	A + (TRAP reversed)
24 PROVENCAL	French person confirmed call terminated before the end (9)	PROVEN + (CAL)l
25 OBLIVIOUS	Inattentive lie mostly exposed in patent (9)	(LI)e inside OBVIOUS
26 SUPER	Place I acquired from supplier is fantastic (5)	SUPPLIER minus (PL + I)
27 GATE	Take items of bling at emporium (4)	blinG AT Emporium
28 ITINERANTS	Intranet is reconfigured for those actively roaming (10)	Anagram of INTRANET IS

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 PORPOISE	Ocean swimmer characterised by power or elegance (8)	P + OR + POISE
2 LONDONER	Recluse providing refuge for college fellow - a city dweller (8)	LONER outside DON
3 REPRESENTATIVE	Agent sent in crooked privateer before end of lease (14)	SENT inside anagram of PRIVATEER + leas(E)
4 MISSILE	Failure to hit the mark that is recorded on exterior of large weapon (7)	MISS + (IE outside L)
5 GRINDER	Smile broadly, embarrassed about hard worker on board (7)	GRIN + (RED reversed)
7 CHAIRS	One involved in terrible crash is meeting runners (6)	I inside anagram of CRASH
8 DUTIES	Outsider losing or changing responsibilities (6)	Anagram of (OUTSIDER minus OR)
9 MULTIPROCESSOR	Cruel impostors wrecked a powerful digital computer (14)	Anagram of CRUEL IMPOSTORS
16 SAUCEPAN	Kitchen utensil shaped canapes containing stuff in the middle (8)	Anagram of CANAPES outside st(U)ff
17 FAILURES	Losers, right, not included in fair inducements (8)	FAIR minus R + LURES
19 HOP TO IT	Hurry up modification of photofit lacking features primarily (3,2,2)	Anagram of PHOTOFIT minus (F)eatures
20 DROPS IN	Doctor, before operations at home, stops by (5,2)	DR + OPS + IN
21 BARONG	Captain of industry with grand, large chopper (6)	BARON + G
22 TABLET	Medicinal substance is effective time after time (6)	(ABLE + T) after T