

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 2/5/2026) Solution

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

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 PARAPET	Standard placed next to a special wall used for protection (7)	PAR + A + PET
5 AROUSE	Turn on circuit in a device (6)	O inside (A + RUSE)
8 RESISTANT	Is possible result of exposure in time off withstanding adverse conditions? (9)	(IS + TAN) inside REST
9 See 21-down		
11 EARLY	Advanced at great cost east of front (5)	d(EARLY)
12 COMPETENT	Qualified company representative restated tenet (9)	CO + MP + anagram of TENET
13 DISABLED	Tax form ID on return was first invalidated (8)	(BAS + ID) reversed + LED
15 BISTRO	Selection offered in club is troubling food provider (6)	cluB IS TROubling
17 CASHEW	Use teeth eating a small nut (6)	CHEW outside (A + S)
19 NEHEMIAH	Saint, not associated with heathenism, translated a book of the Bible (8)	Anagram of HEATHENISM minus ST
22 LEASEHOLD	Holes repaired in main rented property (9)	Anagram of HOLES inside LEAD
23 ASSAM	A religious service backed an India state (5)	A + (MASS reversed)
24 RABAT	Boozer turned back at important place in Morocco (5)	BAR reversed + AT
25 APOSTOLIC	Papal stool roughly drawn in a picture (9)	Anagram of STOOL inside (A + PIC)
26 ADORED	Drink after a party is liked a lot (6)	RED after (A + DO)
27 MONGREL	Hybrid variety of lemon stuffed by Greek (7)	Anagram of LEMON outside GR

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 PERPENDICULAR	Upright salesperson reversed and lined up car somehow (13)	REP reversed + anagram of LINED UP CAR
2 RESORTS	Entertainment centres are missing a computer programmer's routines (7)	(ARE minus A) + SORTS
3 PESKY	Power drawn by small type of refrigerator is annoying (5)	P + ESKY
4 THATCHER	Provider of top cover that caught the girl (8)	THAT + C + HER
5 ASTHMA	Remains with mother checking temperature and respiratory problem (6)	(ASH + MA) outside T
6 ON THE RISE	Moulded sheet iron is going up (2,3,4)	Anagram of SHEET IRON
7 STUDENT	Apprentice died oddly in a dare-devil act (7)	(D)i(E)d inside STUNT
10 PETROCHEMICAL	Representatives, primarily in OPEC, claim the converted output of the refining process (13)	(R)epresentatives inside anagram of OPEC CLAIM THE
14 BEEFEATER	Old guard's raised fee accepted by striker (9)	FEE reversed inside BEATER
16 HEADROOM	He replaced a door with half millimetre clearance? (8)	HE + anagram of A DOOR + (M)m
18 STABBED	Cricketers turned up on ground in an injured state (7)	BATS reversed + BED
20 INSULAR	Urinals out of order should be closed (7)	Anagram of URINALS
21 & 9-across DONALD TRUMP	"Don't bum around, lad" ordered leader (6,5)	(DONT + RUMP) outside anagram of LAD
23 ACTIN	Muscle protein and carbon absorbed by a metal (5)	C inside (A + TIN)