AFR Cryptic (Saturday 9/3/2024) Solution

¹ D	I	² S	S	³	Р	⁴ A	Т	⁵ E		⁶ F	Α	⁷ C	Т	⁸ S
Е		Р		N		Р		G		L		U		W
⁹ C	Α	L	L	S	U	Р		10 G	R	Α	N	Т	Ε	Е
Α		1		Т		0				1		В		L
11 L	Υ	С	R	Α		¹²	M	¹³ P	0	R	T	Α	N	Т
		Ε		N		N		Α				С		Е
¹⁴b	U	D		¹⁵ C	ı	Т	Υ	S	L	¹⁶	С	K	Ε	R
l el				Е		М		Т		N				Е
¹⁷ P	0	18L	I	S	Н	Е	D	0	F	F		¹⁹ M	Α	D
I		Е				N		R		U		Α		
²⁰ C	0	N	S	²¹ 0	R	Т	ı	Α		²² R	Ε	Ν	Α	²³ L
Т		D		Р				L		I		S		0
24 	С	Ε	С	Α	Р	²⁵ S		²⁶	M	Α	G	I	N	G
0		R		L		Α		S		Т		Z		0
²⁷ N	Ε	S	T	S		²⁸ G	Α	T	Н	Е	R	Ε	R	S

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 DISSIPATE	Waste is linked to sample in time (9)	(IS + SIP) inside DATE
6 FACTS	Communicator stated known information (5)	Sounds like FAX
9 CALLS UP	Contacts all substitutes originally involved in tournament (5,2)	[ALL + (S)ubstitutes] inside CUP
10 GRANTEE	Social worker, consumed by greed, docked person given money (7)	ANT inside GREE(d)
11 LYCRA	Dressmaker's finishing obvious in restitching of lacy material (5)	Dressmake(R) inside anagram of LACY
12 IMPORTANT	Key man limiting data connection in IT (9)	(MAN outside PORT) inside IT
14 DUD	Worthless fellow to a great extent (3)	(DUD)e
15 CITY SLICKER	Slice of lemon spotted in sticky rice agitated sophisticated urbanite (4,7)	(L)emon inside anagram of STICKY RICE
17 POLISHED OFF	Language education of fellow is completed (8,3)	POLISH + ED + OF + F
19 MAD	Bananas produced in short supply (3)	(MAD)e
20 CONSORTIA	Syndicates being supported by group in CIA (9)	(ON + SORT) inside CIA
22 RENAL	Doctor finally recalled passage connected to the kidneys (5)	docto(R) + LANE reversed
24 ICECAPS	One heading to certain latitude passed around polar masses (7)	I + (C)ertain + (SPACE reversed)
26 IMAGING	I am getting old radiographer's work (7)	IM + AGING
27 NESTS	Birds build these traps filled with seeds primarily (5)	NETS outside (S)eeds
28 GATHERERS	They pick up fuel around there, right? (9)	GAS outside (THERE + R)

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 DECAL	Tied up a transfer (5)	LACED reversed
2 SPLICED	United kept cool after Sheffield played loosely initially (7)	ICED after (S)heffiled + (P)Layed + (L)oosely
3 INSTANCES	Illustrations in certain positions (9)	IN + STANCES
4 APPOINTMENT	A very soft medicated cream is choice (11)	a + PP + OINTMENT
5 EGG	Laid item, for example, on top of gear (3)	EG + (G)ear
6 FLAIR	Natural ability learner displayed in show (5)	L inside FAIR
7 CUT BACK	Reduce amount of boron used in copper nail (3,4)	B inside (CU + TACK)
8 SWELTERED	Unfinished well in desert badly suffered in the hot weather? (9)	WEL(l) inside anagram of DESERT
13 PASTORALIST	Accomplished tailors worked with wool supplier, possibly (11)	PAST + anagram of TAILORS
14 DEPICTION	Language written on cover of extended play's drawing (9)	DICTION outside EP
16 INFURIATE	Wearing a warm coat, I looked after stomach bug (9)	IN + FUR + I + ATE
18 LENDERS	Banks, for example - they mix things up after the start (7)	(b)LENDERS
19 MAN-SIZE	Very big pole is put back inside labyrinth (3-4)	[N + (IS reversed)] inside MAZE
21 OPALS	Friend invested in overseas basketball team (5)	PAL inside OS
23 LOGOS	Symbols of industry work in leading part of LA? (5)	GO inside LOS
25 SAG	Decline long, detailed story with no ending (3)	SAG(a)