**Vaulters look to soar in Swedish sun**

The women’s pole vault will feature the IAAF Diamond League Road to the Final leader and World Champion, Yarisley Silva of Cuba along with Olympic bronze medallist from Rio, Eliza McCartney. Local star, Angelica Bengtsson, will be hopeful of a good performance in front of her home crowd.

Bengtsson, the 2010 World Junior and 2009 World Youth Champion, will be looking to improve on her fourth place in Oslo at tomorrow’s IAAF Diamond League qualifying meeting in Stockholm.

She believes she is getting closer to the world’s best vaulters, commenting,

“My father [her coach] and I have discussed a lot of new ways to get higher. I am now putting these techniques into practice. My goal this season is the London World Championships so I am now working hard to get there.

“I am ready to break the Swedish record but whether I can break it tomorrow we will have to see. There is a new generation of young girls coming through in the pole vault. I used to consider myself as one of the younger vaulters but now there are many more.”

Among her competitors tomorrow will be New Zealander, Eliza McCartney. Bronze medallist at the Rio Olympics, McCartney had a disappointing evening in Oslo where she failed to register a height. She said, “I had a bad day in Oslo so it is really good to be able to jump again so quickly. I really want to get the technical stuff right. On 12 strides I have to work really hard.”

On life as an Olympic medallist, she commented, “I had such a terrific 2016 and to finish with a bronze at the Olympics was incredible. It changed a lot back home where there is such a sporting culture so I became well known very quickly. It did take a lot of adjustment.

“After last summer I took a month off then I have had a tough summer season in New Zealand as preparation for this year.

On her coaching, she said, “My coach built a downhill runway at university so I could do more technical jumps without tiring on the runway!”

Silva’s 4.81m in Oslo put her fifth in the world this year and leaves her with 21 points going into tomorrow’s IAAF Diamond League qualifying meeting.