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**OLYMPIC SPECIAL**

CHINA DAILY

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2012 chinadaily.com.cn

中国日报

Issue No 18 £1

BYE BYE, LONDON

GLITTERING FINALE SEES FLAME PASSED TO RIO



A call for more balance

China's sports chief happy with strides in mainstream events, but is not satisfied, **Sun Xiaochen** reports.

Despite delivering the best overseas Olympic performance in London, China remained humble about its competitive sports achievements because of gaps with world powerhouses in

some mainstream events.

After claiming 38 gold medals to come in second after the United States in the final medal tally, the Chinese delegation bagged its best haul in history,

aside from its 51 gold at the Beijing Games four years ago.

London marked major breakthroughs for China in many less-popular events.

Among its 73 medal-winning

events, China grabbed maiden titles in eight sports, including the men's 20km race walk (Chen Ding), the women's laser radial sailing (Xu Lijia) and the women's epee team (Li Na, Luo Xiaojuan, Sun Yujie and Xu Anqi).

Chinese swimmers scooped up five gold, two silver and three bronze in the Western-dominated pool to finish second after the US team's record medal count.

Swimming prodigies Sun

Yang and Ye Shiwen made history by smashing two world records in the men's 1,500m freestyle and the women's 400m individual medley with eye-popping performances.

Track cycling, synchronized swimming and modern pentathlon contingents also respectively clinched their first Olympic silver medals, showing huge improvements compared with the last Games.

Meanwhile, its traditional strengths in table tennis,

badminton, diving, gymnastics, shooting and weightlifting contributed to the total. It swept all nine titles in two racket sports, while producing 17 in the others.

"Our medal distribution suggests our competitive sports development is more balanced than before," Liu Peng, the delegation chief and sports minister, said at the final briefing on Sunday.

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国际标准编号:ISSN0253-9543