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China's Olympic goal 中国奥运目标

中国新华社发表了一篇文章，预期中国将在本届伦敦奥运会上再次击败美国，成为获得金牌最多的国家。

中国对奥运的自信心也体现出中国在世界舞台上越来越重要的地位。BBC 记者 Martin Patience 发回了以下报道。

Detailed it is but **modest** it certainly isn't. The **editorial** sets out in precise terms where China can expect to win gold medals. In gymnastics the **haul** could be nine, weight lifting offers up the opportunity for another five, and there could be medals won on the track. **All told**, China believes it can win thirty seven gold medals - enough to **top the table**.

What's perhaps surprising about this editorial is that it's been published in the first place. But in a country known for setting targets, **it serves** as a public warning to Chinese athletes not to disappoint.

Glory goes not only to the individual winner but the country as a whole.

And Chinese fans can be **unforgiving** if their athletes fail to meet expectations, or in this case, specific targets. As for the **host nation**, Britain, there's some good news.

China's state-run news agency **predicts** it could finish third.

Questions

1. In which two sports does Xinhua newspaper predict a total of 14 gold medals?
2. Is this report putting a lot of pressure on Chinese athletes?
3. How would Chinese fans respond if their athletes didn't achieve their goal?
4. What does the report predict for Britain in the medal table?

Glossary 词汇

modest	谦虚的
editorial	报章上的社论
haul	(口语) 一次获得的量
all told	整个来说
top the table	位居榜首
it serves	它的作用
glory	荣耀
unforgiving	不原谅人的
host nation	主办国
predicts	预测

Answers to the questions

1. In which two sports does Xinhua newspaper predict a total of 14 gold medals?

Answer: Gymnastics and weight lifting.

2. Is this report putting a lot of pressure on Chinese athletes?

Answer: Yes, it is almost like a public warning to the Chinese athletes.

3. How would Chinese fans respond if their athletes didn't achieve their goal?

Answer: The Chinese fans can be unforgiving, meaning the athletes could face backlash from fans if they didn't do well.

4. What does the report predict for Britain in the medal table?

Answer: Britain could finish third in the medal table, which would be very good news for the host nation.