SHANGHAI NOW

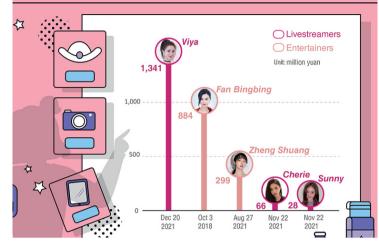
Friday, December 24, 2021





A new landmark shopping complex along the Suzhou Creek in Shanghai, dubbed the city's Hanging Gardens of Babylon, opened on Wednesday. The initial phase of the "Tian An 1000 Trees" project includes restaurants, museums, art galleries and entertainment sites, along with the city's earliest industrial heritages. — Wang Rongjiang and Jiang Xiaowei

Celebrities Fined for Tax Evasion



Graphics by Li Yi/Shanghai Daily

Livestreamers face tax crackdown in China

CHINESE provincial authorities have ordered celebrities and livestreamers to report taxrelated crimes before 2022, just days after China's "queen of livestreaming" Viya was fined 1.34 billion yuan (US\$203 million) for tax evasion.

Top e-commerce livestreamer Viya, whose real name is Huang Wei, was fined on Monday by the tax bureau in Hangzhou, a city in Zhejiang Province, for hiding personal income and other offences in 2019 and 2020.

On Wednesday, tax officials from China's most economically prosperous cities and provinces posted identical notices on their websites ordering celebrities and livestreamers to conduct a self-review of any tax-related misdoings, correct these issues, and report to the relevant tax authorities.

"Before the end of 2021, correct tax-related issues and report them proactively to the tax bureau, (which) will lighten, mitigate or exempt tax penalties in accordance with the requirements of the notice," the notice said.

"If the self-inspection and self-correction are still refused or not thorough, the tax bureau will deal with it seriously in accordance with laws and regulations."

Celebrities and livestreamers are the latest to get caught up in a broad crackdown that initially targeted tech monopolies but has since widened to include private education, social media platforms, and other industries as China seeks to reduce economic inequality and achieve "common prosperity."

Before the crackdown, tax evasion had already sunk the career of several well-known figures in the entertainment industry. However, Wednesday's notices highlight the broad-ranging and systematic nature of the "common prosperity" crackdown.

(Reuters)



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