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According to the law, an artist found to be lip-syncing for the first time is subject to public disclosure; a second violation may result in the loss of performing permits.



Ashin, Mayday's lead vocal, has denied accusations of lip-syncing. — IC

Mayday, mayday!

A pop band in some distress over lip-syncing allegations

Lu Feiran

Zoe Yan was still tingling with excitement as she left Shanghai Stadium after seeing her first live performance by Taiwan Island's popular band Mayday. But the afterglow has been somewhat compromised by subsequent accusations of lip-syncing.

Two weeks after the show, online reports appeared, claiming lead vocal Ashin was partly lip-syncing during the eight Shanghai performances. The city's Bureau of Culture and Tourism launched an investigation, but no findings have been

revealed yet.

In China, lip-syncing in front of paying audiences is technically banned.

"After I saw the news about the lip-syncing, I recalled something fishy during the concert as well," Yan said. "Especially during the final part, when Ashin put the microphone down on the stage and competed on high notes with fans. Now that I think about it, I think that part was him putting on a show. But the fans were too excited to notice anything."

Since its debut in 1999, the five-member pop rock band has released nine studio albums

and received multiple awards, including the Golden Melody Award for Best Band in Taiwan in 2001, 2004, 2009 and 2012.

The band developed a solid fan base among Chinese around the world, and this year it held 59 live global concerts. In Shanghai, the eight concerts, which had ticket prices ranging from 355 yuan (US\$50) to 1,855 yuan, attracted more than 360,000 fans.

The first accusation of lip-syncing came on the video platform Bilibili from a netizen with the screen name Maitian Nongfu. The uploader published three videos of several Mayday live shows this year, including