

# ***SCIENCE NEWS***

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**VOLUME 180 No. 14, DECEMBER 2011**

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- 10**     **Atom & Cosmos.**  
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- 12**     **Life.**  
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Physicists compete in a race to the bottom with a finish line that can never be reached.

**COVER**

Floating lanterns in Japan's Fukushima Prefecture commemorate more than 20,000 victims of the March 2011, earth-quake and tsunami.

*The Yomiuri Shimbun via AP Images.*