

A driver fell asleep at the wheel and crashed, causing his cousin to be flung from the car and into the path of a lorry.

Nabeen Sultan (22) dozed off as he and Bilal Mohammed were on their way back to Leicester after a meal out in Birmingham.

His car hit the central reservation of the M6 and 21-year-old Mr Mohammed was thrown out of a window, on to the opposite carriageway.

An oncoming lorry could not avoid hitting Mr Mohammed, killing him.

by **COURT STAFF**

Sultan (22), of Victoria Road East, Northfields, Leicester, had originally denied causing Mr Mohammed's death by dangerous driving, on the basis that his driving was careless rather than dangerous.

But on the day of his trial at Warwick Crown Court he changed his plea to guilty and was jailed for 20 months. He was also banned from driving for two years.

Prosecutor Neil Bannister told the court the crash took place on the southbound carriageway of the motorway at 11.45pm on May 9 last year.

Sultan and Mr Mohammed,

whom Sultan described as not just his cousin but a very close friend, had been for a meal with two other friends and were on the way back to Leicester.

"Tragically, the journey was never completed," said Mr Bannister.

He said Sultan, who had not been drinking, fell asleep and let go of the steering wheel of his Daewoo Matiz.

He suddenly awoke and realised the car was veering towards the near side.

"He reacted in such a way as to put a considerable degree of force on the steering wheel towards the right," said Mr Bannister. "Unfortunately, because

of the violent steering, it was impossible for the defendant to regain control of the car and it careered towards the central barrier."

The force of the collision was so strong Mr Mohammed was thrown from the car and over the central barrier.

Meanwhile, the Matiz spun and rolled across the southbound carriageway, ending up in a hedge on the nearside.

The other two passengers, one of whom was also thrown out of the car, were injured. Sultan escaped serious injury.

Mr Bannister said Mr Mohammed was "much-loved" by his family, who were devastated by their loss and took is-

sue with the claim that the two cousins were best friends.

Steven Newcombe, defending, said he wanted to express Sultan's "very deep sorrow and regret at the event which led to this terrible accident".

He said Sultan felt sufficiently alert when they set off from Birmingham but accepted "there would have been some warning to him that fatigue was setting in".

Recorder Adrian Redgrave told Sultan: "The devastating consequence of what you did is out of all proportion to the degree of your fault."

"But a sentence of imprisonment must be imposed to reflect the fact of a life lost."

Distinguish allergy from intolerance

PEOPLE are being urged to find out more about the difference between food allergies and intolerance, during national Food Allergy Week which begins on Monday.

Dr Chris Trzcinski, a GP in Markfield, said: "Those suffering from a food allergy will have distinctive symptoms very quickly which can be caused by a very small amount of the problem food."

"The most common causes include eggs, peanuts or tree nuts, mushrooms, fish and shellfish."

Gulshinder Chattha, a dietician, said patients with food intolerance would have long-lasting symptoms such as stomach aches, bloating, diarrhoea or constipation and would depend on the amount eaten.

www.allergyuk.org

Why I'm making teenagers trade places



PICTURE: BETH WALSH / LEBW20120118A.006

TV SERIES: Halla Diyab is planning a documentary about Muslim teenagers' religious viewpoints

A DOCUMENTARY maker is planning to make a TV show about teenagers' religious viewpoints.

Dr Halla Diyab, who lives in Leicester, has devised the series, *Fitnah* - "dispute" in Arabic. It will see English and Middle Eastern teenagers trade places to see if it changes their outlooks.

Dr Diyab, who was born in Libya and raised in various Middle Eastern countries, said she had "a personal motive" for making the show.

She said: "I came from a very conservative society and I've gone through a journey of change where I became more accepting of others."

The series is set to feature two Muslims from Leicestershire - a fundamentalist Islamic blogger from Leicester and a girl from Loughborough who oppose her parents' strict religious views but is afraid to confront them. Dr Diyab is in talks with producers and hopes to begin filming shortly.